

New twist on media tradition
First Washington D.C. baby of the New Year has two mommies.
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Shifting focus
Nat'l gay Democratic group beefs up operations in states.
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Continental fare at Castro
German, Swiss, Austrian films in 'Berlin & Beyond' festival.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Suspected OD deaths prompt new concerns over drugs in the Castro

by Ed Walsh

The Castro Country Club was shaken by the suspected overdoses of two of its regulars who were found dead on Thursday, January 2, and the deaths and reports of an increase in "strung-out" people in the Castro are sparking concerns that a bad batch of drugs may be circulating in the neighborhood.

"People are stunned," said Dan Cusick, the manager of the popular alcohol-free club at 4058 18th Street. "It's a tragedy when anybody dies but when it's people who are struggling and trying to kick [drugs], it's especially tragic."

Neil "Alex" Fruge, 27, and Frank



"Tug" Araujo, 31, were found dead of suspected overdoses of intravenous drugs within a three-hour time span. Fruge was found at 9:45 a.m. in his Tenderloin hotel room and Araujo was discovered around noon between the two sets of steps in front of the Castro Country Club.

In the days surrounding the deaths, there was a significant increase of people who were obviously high on drugs, acting bizarrely and causing trouble in the Castro, according to San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officer Jane Warner and San Francisco Police's gay and lesbian liaison, Sergeant Chuck Limbert.

"There may be a bad batch out there," said Limbert, adding that on the same day that Fruge and Araujo were found dead, police took five people out of the Castro who were allegedly strung out on drugs and causing trouble for the businesses in the area. Limbert and Warner said that the increase was more than what would normally be expected over a holiday period.

Limbert, who personally arrested two people in the Castro that day, said that he believes that it may be more likely that the drugs involved were an injectable form of methamphetamine or crystal rather than heroin. He said that the people that were having the most problems that day were the "tweakers" rather than the long-term heroin users, many of whom are

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City and state tax board at odds over domestic partners assessment ruling

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the city welcomed a new assessor this week and out lesbian Carole Migden assumed her position on the state Board of Equalization, a legal tug-of-war is looming over the city's ruling not to reassess the property of domestic partners.

As the *Bay Area Reporter* reported last week, the state tax board's legal counsel has advised the city that its decision to consider registered domestic partners as equivalent to spouses and not reassess their property when one partner dies is unconstitutional and unenforceable.

The tax board's counsel has asked City Attorney Dennis Herrera to either ask the assessor to rescind the ruling or take the matter to court. As Herrera's office prepares a response, newly sworn-in Assessor Mabel Teng told the *B.A.R.* that she intends to stand behind the ruling her predecessor, Doris Ward, implemented last October.



Carole Migden, left, was sworn in as a member of the state Board of Equalization Monday, January 6 by City Attorney Dennis Herrera.

we will fight them."

While a seat on the equalization board had been seen as a fairly quiet political office for Migden, who is planning a state Senate run in 2004, the domestic partner tax ruling could thrust Migden back into the public spotlight.

And Migden, who is expected to become chair of the tax board, could find herself pitted against her close friend Herrera, whom she had sworn into office Monday, January 6 inside his City Hall office. After the swearing-in ceremony, Migden said the issue of domestic partner property reassessment will be agendaized for the equalization board's February meeting.

"I just got sworn in five minutes ago and I am going to be the chair of the board in two days so it is a little premature," Migden said Monday, when asked if she agreed with the tax board counsel's decision. "I do not want to preempt discussion, but it's dicey. The Board of Equalization counsel has warned of further litigation if a court acts on it. I do not want us to end up with a court ruling we can't overcome."

Both Migden and Teng plan on sitting down with the City Attorney's office and equalization board lawyers to discuss the matter. Migden said she hopes to work out a compromise that would avoid sending the matter to court.

"I plan to meet with both counsels and hopefully work out a compromise before the February meeting," Migden said. "I want to see a literal interpretation of the law. We need to be careful we do not compromise ourselves in a court appeal situation."

When reached Tuesday, Teng said she had yet to speak to either Migden or any of the other equalization board members.

"I understand the Board of Equalization

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Leal makes mayoral bid official

by Zak Szymanski

Holding signs in several different languages and chanting "Susan!", a diverse and large crowd of close to 200 people assembled in front of City Hall on Tuesday, January 7 to kick off the mayoral campaign of San Francisco City Treasurer Susan Leal.

Leal, a progressive Latina lesbian, emphasized her fiscal skills as well as her platform of creating opportunities for all San Franciscans, and her supporters – representing artists and activists of all ethnicities and backgrounds – touted her abilities to bring people together.

The number of mayoral candidates for the November election is growing. Leal joins Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Gavin Newsom, and former Supervisor Angela Alioto as the most well-known figures in the race to succeed Mayor Willie Brown, who is barred by law from seeking a third term.

Poet and activist Jewelle Gomez, remarking on the city's high cost of living, said that Leal was someone who knew the art of politics, money, and getting things done. Lesbian pioneer Del Martin highlighted Leal's economic and diplomatic skills. Disability activist Jose Caido said that while other politicians talk about inclusion, "Susan Leal has actually done it." Newly elected Supervisor Fiona Ma called Leal "loyal, modest, and generous." San Francisco Tomorrow's Lew Butler, noting that his organization aims to unite



Treasurer Susan Leal kicked off her campaign for San Francisco mayor Tuesday, January 7 before a crowd of supporters.

people across race and class lines, added "no one can do that like Susan Leal."

Girls advocate Tracy Brown called Leal a role model and inspiration for young women. And HIV and LGBT activist Jeff Sheehy, telling of Leal's critical roles as a city supervisor in passing the historic equal benefits ordinance and securing HIV/AIDS care, said that Leal has the skills to take "risky, edgy proposals and turn them into sound policy."

Leal, flanked by her family members, said that while there are many reasons people choose to run for mayor, her reasons were "a little more personal than most."

The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Leal grew up in San Francisco, finding hope in local institutions like neighborhood libraries and recreation centers. Her family includes

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Adachi sworn in as new public defender

by Zak Szymanski

The lines for admittance began forming an hour before the doors were opened, and both the Board of Supervisors chambers and the overflow room downstairs at City Hall were packed for the inauguration of Jeff Adachi, the first new elected public defender in San Francisco in 22 years. In a grand yet personalized ceremony on Friday, January 3, Adachi took the oath of office and pledged that he would fight for all marginalized communities and against recent government actions that threaten the civil liberties of those accused of crimes.

For Adachi's supporters, the moment marked a rare triumph worthy of several bouts of thunderous applause, a victory of experience and dedication to the office's vision over political favors. Adachi, an attorney in the public defender's office since 1985, was long considered the favorite for the top job when Mayor Willie Brown appointed Kimiko Burton, the daughter of state Senator John Burton (D-San Francisco), to fill the slot in 2001. Burton promptly fired Adachi, her rival for the position, and he spent the next year campaigning on his merits and against what he saw as corruption in the Brown administration. Adachi soundly defeated Burton in the election last March.



Rick Gerharter

Public Defender Jeff Adachi, right, greets supporters after being sworn in.

"This election really shows me the good in politics," Supervisor Matt Gonzalez told the crowd, noting that many supporters who remained in the public defender's office after Adachi's termination continued to support Adachi despite the threat of political retaliation. Gonzalez added that when he later looks back on all the campaigns he has worked for, "this victory will be the sweetest."

Adachi's victory, while not so sweet for Burton supporters, nevertheless did not deter them from attending Friday's inauguration. Brown stood respectfully throughout the ceremony, as did many legislators, judges, and law enforcement officials regardless of their endorsements during the race.

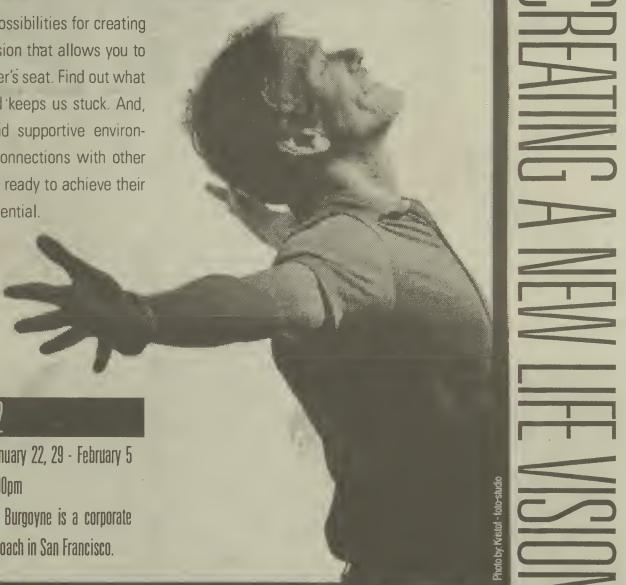
Several invited speakers attested to Adachi's commitment; outgoing Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano remarked that Adachi was someone who would "go to bat for the underdog," while Adachi's wife, Mutsumi, told a story of how her husband put the couple's new car up as collateral to bail out a client wrongly accused of attempted murder. Other speakers included Daro Inouye, deputy public defender; Dean Peter Keane of Gold-

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Gonzalez is supes prez

by Zak Szymanski

You can't buy better drama than this at the A.C.T.," was the remark from Supervisor Jake McGoldrick during the inaugural meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, January 8. The meeting, in addition to swearing in newly-elected and re-elected supervisors, was charged with the task of selecting a new board president. The process lasted more than an hour, with a standoff that for several rounds of voting produced exactly the same results: four votes for Supervisor Aaron Peskin, four for Supervisor Matt Gonzalez, and three for Supervisor Sophie Maxwell.

Peskin, however, became the hero of the day when he released his supporters and withdrew his name from the race. A standing ovation was given to Peskin, and then his supporters changed their votes, resulting in a 6-5 win for Gonzalez.

Various solutions were proposed during the voting, including asking Maxwell, who had the least amount of votes of the three candidates, to withdraw. Maxwell and her supporters, however, saw it differently, emphasizing that nobody had the six votes necessary, and Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, in one of his final acts as chair, said that ending the standstill was really up to the three candidates for the position, as all of them repeatedly



Matt Gonzalez

voted for themselves and secured commitments for their votes from their colleagues.

With Peskin's move, which Ammiano hailed as a "demonstration of leadership," his supporters, Supervisor Fiona Ma and Ammiano went on to vote for Maxwell, while votes from Peskin and McGoldrick put Gonzalez over the top.

Gonzalez, who represents District 5, becomes the first Green

Party elected official to lead the Board of Supervisors. A speech from Supervisor Tony Hall — perhaps the supervisor least politically aligned with Gonzalez — urged a vote for Gonzalez but was wrought with the racially-tinged jargon for which Hall has become known and neglected the fact that Gonzalez himself is a person of color. Nevertheless, Hall's affirmation that Gonzalez would not make political deals and was the best person to bring people together was echoed by the board majority. ▼

Gonzalez to announce plans for Milk memorial today

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Supervisor Matt Gonzalez will hold a news conference at noon today (Thursday, January 9) on the steps of City Hall (Polk Street side) to announce the start of a campaign to raise funds for a permanent memorial to Harvey Milk in City Hall.

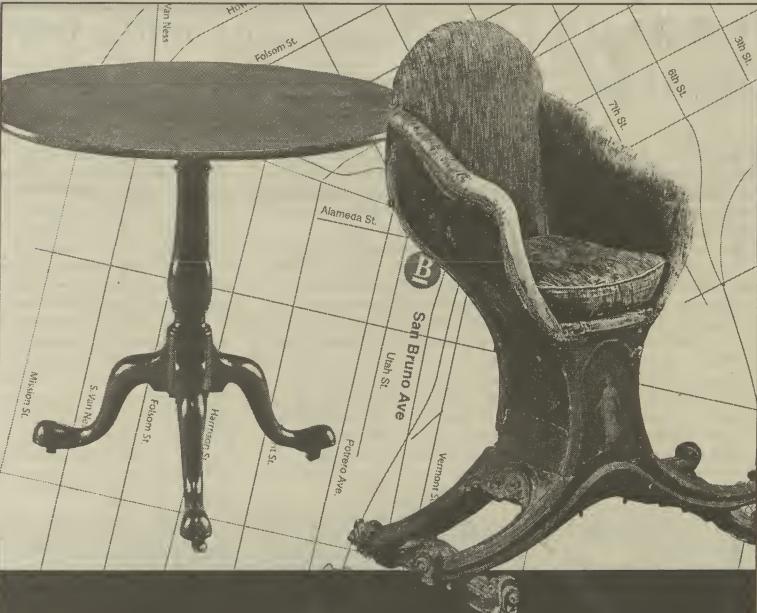
The date marks the 25th anniversary of the inauguration of Milk as a member of the Board of Supervisors, which occurred on January 9, 1978. Milk, the first elected openly gay man in the U.S., was assassinated, along with Mayor George Moscone, by ex-Supervisor Dan White on November 27, 1978.

Friends and associates of Milk's have been invited to attend today's event, and the public is also encouraged to attend.

The memorial envisioned would be a bust such as those in City Hall honoring past Mayors George Christopher, Dianne Feinstein, Moscone, and John Shelley.

In October 2001 the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution urging the Arts Commission to solicit and the City Hall building manager to determine an appropriate location for the installation of the bust.

The controller's office will be collecting funds for the project on behalf of the Arts Commission, according to Gonzalez, whose office was still working on final details of the plan at press time. ▼



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City College trustee sworn in



Rick Gerhardt

Gay activist Hoover Lee, right, honors openly gay Lawrence Wong with a shell necklace following his swearing-in Monday, January 6 as a member of the City College of San Francisco Board of Trustees. Wong won re-election to his third term in November. Superior Court Judge Lillian Sing administered the oath of office to Wong and Anita Greer, who was also re-elected, along with Johnnie L. Carter Jr., who was sworn in earlier by Mayor Willie Brown.

Center to host Helms 'retirement' party

by Joe Dignan

The gay community is saying goodbye — and good riddance — to one of its staunchest critics, Jesse Helms.

Helms, whose first term in the U.S. Senate began in 1972, has since then it seems, devoted his career to fashioning himself as a lightning rod for the loathing of America's minority groups, its disenchanted, and its poor.

He made special enemies in the gay and lesbian communities, long before these groups had the

temerity to name themselves communities, by calling homosexuality "unnatural" and "disgusting" and by making remarks like, "The homosexual movement threatens the strength and survival of the American family."

Helms officially left the Senate this month, so many gay and lesbian activist groups have started to celebrate, staging mocking retirement parties for Helms. The most conspicuous of these was on November 2, in Helms's home state of North Carolina, sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign.

San Francisco's LGBT Community Center is holding a similar bash next Thursday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$7. The center's spokesman, Jason Riggs, promised that the affair, a two-hour no-host cocktail party in the center's Ceremonial Room overlooking Market Street, would include Helms-themed entertainment, including the debut performance of a new song by playwright Tom Orr.

"It's 'Goodbye Jesse' sung to the tune of 'Hello Dolly,'" Riggs said. The center is trying to work

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Lesbian gubernatorial aide joins utility panel

by Matthew S. Bajko

In a New Year's Eve shakeup of the state's Public Utilities Commission, Governor Gray Davis demoted the panel's president and appointed a top aide, out lesbian Susan P. Kennedy, to fill a vacated seat.

Kennedy, 42, is Davis's long-time chief of staff and Cabinet Secretary and has served in his administration since January 1999. Davis appointed her to fill a six-year term. The commissioner position pays \$114,191 and requires state Senate confirmation.

Davis also appointed Kennedy's partner, Vicki Marti, as a member of the California Medical Assistance Commission on December 19, 2002. Marti, 55, will receive a salary of \$99,000, and the position does not require Senate confirmation.

Along with Kennedy, Davis named Michael R. Peevey to serve on the PUC and designated him as president of the panel. Peevey, 64, had served as an unpaid adviser to Davis during the energy crisis and joined the PUC in March last year to fill the seat of retiring Commissioner Richard Bilas. Peevey, a former head of Southern California Edison, will receive \$117,818 a year in the position if confirmed by the Senate.

Peevey will replace Loretta Lynch as president of the PUC. Lynch drew the governor's ire during the energy crisis when she brokered a secret \$3.3 billion deal with Southern California Edison to settle a lawsuit. Lynch also exasperated Davis in failing to move quickly to adopt measures needed to prepare for the state's energy bond sale and surprised the governor when she led the commission to adopt a record electricity rate increase in 2001.

Consumer groups attacked Davis for his nominations, saying they are too closely tied to the energy industry and to the governor himself. With the commission split down the middle with two members allied to industry and

two others voting for consumers, Kennedy will be the swing vote on the PUC.

"This is a woman who is going to have a lot of power over utility rates and hopefully will be as accessible to the community as she will be to big business. Big business and the utility lobby spend a great deal of time lobbying the PUC," said out lesbian Mindy Spatt, a spokeswoman for TURN, the utility reform network. "From TURN's perspective, it boils down to will she side with consumers or side with business interests?"

As cabinet secretary, Kennedy wielded power over which bills Davis would pass and veto. In 2000, she irritated transgender activists when she reportedly killed a transgender discrimination bill by recommending that Davis veto it.

Kennedy did not return calls from the Bay Area Reporter seeking comment. She lives with Marti, a psychotherapist for Marin Services for Women, in Fairfax, in Marin County. ▼

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Panel to review Pride 2004 date change

by Joe Dignan

An ad hoc group of gay activists is proposing that San Francisco change the date of its Pride Parade in 2004, for one year only, from the last Sunday in June to Sunday, July 4.

San Francisco's Pride Committee is taking the idea seriously and will hold a community meeting on Tuesday, January 14 to hear public comment about the proposal.

As the *Bay Area Reporter* first reported last July, proponents of the change said that they think the one-time change is appropriate because it will provide an opportunity to celebrate the ideals upon which America was founded while at the same time protest the limited legal status of LGBT Americans.

"For way too long the idea of being a patriotic American has been defined by a narrow minority: straight white guys," said Jim DeVinny, a member of the group. "They pay lip service to being a diverse country. We would like to able to take the diversity of San Francisco's LGBT community, in all of its colors, and reclaim the word patriotism to say that being American is a good thing, not something we have to apologize for."

The group also calls the proposed date change an opportunity to commemorate the work of the gay and lesbian civil rights pioneers who organized demonstrations on the Fourth of July outside Philadelphia's Independence Hall to demand equal rights for gays and lesbians. These "Annual Reminders" continued from 1965 until 1969, the year of the Stonewall riots.

Since Stonewall, many gay Pride events have been centered on the last Sunday in June. That day that has been widely accepted as the anniversary of the birth of the modern gay rights movement, when hundreds of protesters rioted to protest discrimination against gays in front of the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar on New York's Christopher Street, after police raided the tavern. The riots began late on Friday, June 27, 1969, immediately following the raid, and continued for several days afterwards.

San Francisco, Toronto and New York, North America's three largest Pride celebrations, as well

as many other U.S. Pride parades, take place on the last Sunday in June. Los Angeles holds its event the week before, to avoid conflicts with San Francisco.

Opponents of the July 4 Pride Parade plan call it assimilationist. Lisa Roth, one of the founders of the Dyke March and a member of its organizing committee, said that many gay and lesbian people don't want to be part of a big mainstream holiday.

"I think the biggest issue is that July 4 is, even in the best of times, a patriotic jamboree," Roth said. "Since September 11, patriotism has come to embrace things like racial profiling and ultra jingoism that the Dyke March committee rejects. We don't need to beg America for inclusion. We're not interested in being like patriotic Americans. We love that there's a different queer culture."

SF Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington worried about the effects of shifting the long-standing date of San Francisco's largest public gathering, which last year drew crowds of about 650,000.

"A lot of the people would have to make a choice between Pride and what they normally do on the Fourth," Witherington said.

But the loudest objection to the plan comes from the city's traffic control bureaucracy. A little known group of senior officials from city's major departments called ISOTT (Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation) has jurisdiction over street closure permits, and they've come out strongly against the idea.

"It's impossible," said Cindy Shamban, ISOTT's special event coordinator. "Basically, it'll close the city."

In a December 5 letter to Witherington, she said that Pride's 650,000 attendees, plus the 100,000 who go to see the fireworks would render total gridlock to a large portion of the city. She went on to say that, "The city does not have the personnel available to handle both a Fourth of July event and Gay Pride activities at the same time."

ISOTT has, according to Shamban, been overruled only once in her recent memory. That was done by the Board of Supervisors during the flap over the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's 20th

anniversary Easter party in 1999 for which the Sisters asked to shut down a block of Castro Street. The mayor came down on the side of San Francisco's Archdiocese, which had objected to the event, saying that it was an insult to San Francisco Catholics, and ISOTT went with him.

Shamban said that the Pride argument wasn't political. "This isn't a political argument, it's a huge logistical problem," she said.

The discussion does, however, have the possibility of turning political. Former Supervisor Harry Britt circulated an e-mail to members of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club requesting their support for the July 4 date change. Milk Club President Debra Walker said that the group hasn't had enough time to vote and take a position.

Kevin Schaub, executive director of the Harvey Milk Institute, said that the idea turns its back on Pride Month and the history of Stonewall. He also stated a concern that the Fourth of July is "an exodus holiday for San Francisco."

"So many volunteers are needed to make Pride run. That's going to be impossible on July 4," he said. "Besides, I might be traumatized by a combination of red, white, blue and drag."

Ironically, the proponents, many of whom are the organizers of San Francisco's gay pub crawl, Guerrilla Queer Bar, conceived of the idea during a Fourth of July Guerrilla Queer Bar event.

"Everybody was dressed to the nines in Fourth of July drag attire," DeVinny said. "It was great."

The Pride Committee will hear public comment at the January 14 meeting from 7 until 8:15 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street at Octavia. To reserve speaking time at the meeting, organizers ask that speakers call the Pride office at (415) 864-0831 or e-mail media@sfpride.org.

Pride's 12-member board is expected to make a decision by the end of February, Witherington said. ▼

The ad hoc group has a descriptive Web site at www.prideonthe4th.com and a petition, which currently has approximately 275 signatures, at www.petitiononline.com/sfpri



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Once a week for six weeks (plus one Thursday)

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: LGBT Community Center

1800 Market St. (@ Octavia St)

How: To register: Call 415/565-7672 ext 351

Or visit www.lastdrag.org

FREE phone counseling to quit smoking: 1-800-NO-BUTTS (662-8887) CA Smoker's Helpline

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First Fridays Friday, January 10, 7pm

Community Space, 501 Castro St @ 18th St
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for gay/bi/trans men over 40:

Sunday Social Sunday, January 19, 4pm

Ellard Hall, 100 Diamond St @ 18th St

Join other men over 40 for our monthly get together. Meet new friends your age. Includes a half-hour discussion, food and drinks. Cosponsored by Midlife Gay Men.

All events are free. For more information on our events, visit stopaids.org or call us at 415.575.0155.

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Back in business

The new 108th Congress has just begun and, already, it's not looking good for those concerned about equal rights. As we mentioned last November, after the dismal showing by Democrats in the midterm elections – especially the loss of Democratic control in the Senate – the Republican stranglehold of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government is a recipe for disaster regarding federal judgeships. And it's already started.

This week President Bush renominated Judge Charles Pickering Sr. of Mississippi for a federal appeals court vacancy. It seems that the Bush White House was paying lip service to minorities last month when Bush criticized Senator Trent Lott for his comments that praised the segregationist platform of 1948 Dixiecrat presidential candidate Strom Thurmond. Pickering was nominated in the last congressional session, but was not confirmed because the Democrats controlled the Senate and effectively blocked the nomination over concern for Pickering's questionable civil rights record in Mississippi.

Senior Justice Department officials, the *New York Times* reported, recommended against Pickering's renomination, because they are worried that the administration would be inviting debate on racial issues. That debate must happen.

With Lott deposed as GOP Senate majority leader, the firestorm of criticism over his comments has died down; and Bush apparently felt that he had done enough with his sharp rebuke of Lott last month. While we were hopeful that the Republican Party might take the Lott controversy as an opportune time to reexamine its sorry record on civil rights, that obviously isn't going to happen. Tennessee Senator Bill Frist, who is the new majority leader, has a voting record similar to Lott's – both have been ranked a zero for LGBT-related votes by the Human Rights Campaign – and it appears that he will use his newfound power to attempt to push back abortion rights and support the president's conservative judicial nominees. Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen was also renominated to a federal appeals court. The Democratic-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee rejected her nomination last year after accusations were made

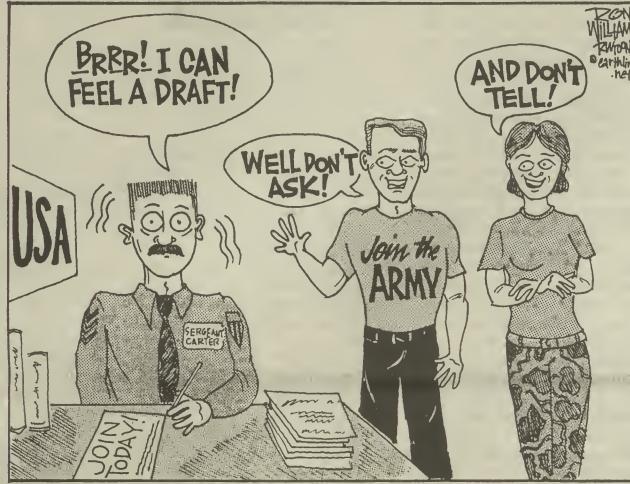
that she injected her personal views opposing abortion into her state judicial opinions. Even Alberto Gonzalez, the president's White House counsel, had reservations about her nomination the last time. Now, Gonzalez, another conservative former judge, looks like the early favorite for a Supreme Court opening.

And that opening on the high court looks more probable now that Republicans control the Senate. Recently there's been much speculation swirling around a possible vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court. Chief Justice William Rehnquist paid Bush a visit last month, and we're sure they talked about more than judicial salaries, which was the spin coming from administration officials after the meeting. Conventional wisdom suggests that Rehnquist and other Republican-appointed judges would rather retire while their party is in control of the process that would vet their replacements.

President Bush repeatedly claims that he wants to represent "all Americans"; but every time he says that, he doesn't mean LGBT Americans or other minorities: his economic stimulus plan would largely benefit the wealthy; his judicial nominees have worrisome records on race; and gays and lesbians still cannot serve openly in the military. Meanwhile, gay Republicans are ecstatic that the GOP retook the Senate, and here in San Francisco, the LGBT Community Center is hosting a "retirement party" for Senator Jesse Helms. While people may enjoy the satire, we agree with Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts), who told us there's basically nothing to celebrate: sure Helms is gone, but his replacement, Senator Elizabeth Dole, certainly will toe the line when it comes to voting for conservative judges in a closely divided Senate.

The Republicans are truly back in business. ▼

Editorial



Citizens should control prisons

by Allen Jones

What has to happen for a society to change its heart on how we deal with those who go astray of the law? People care.

In California we refuse to release a prisoner Governor Gray Davis called a risk to society, when in fact this prisoner is so ill because he suffers from AIDS, cancer, and Parkinson's disease, that he couldn't even write a bad check. The cost to taxpayers on this inmate, Mark Smith, is still running. Then we complain that another California prisoner received a heart transplant. Taxpayers were billed \$2 million.

With a budget deficit of \$35 billion the governor is considering the release of hundreds of inmates. But one name that won't even be discussed for possible release is the terminally ill Mark Smith. The governor's loyalty to the get-tough-on-crime crowd and the prison guards union prevents him from showing he has a heart.

The respected 60 minutes program did a story on the "three strikes" law, and during the segment, a judge threatened two jurors with jail because they refused to send a man to prison for 25 years for stealing a bike under that law. These jurors were determined to go to jail because after reviewing the facts of the case their hearts told that they could not comply with this law. But in the standoff the judge blinked first and removed them as jurors.

I got fed up with this kind of justice and did some research. I learned that Californians could control the prison system and its runaway costs by taking the clemency process away from the governor's control. How? Release nonviolent prisoners who

qualify. Not because we're \$35 billion in the hole but because we as a society are creative enough to help those who have a hard time getting on track.

My proposed ballot initiative called California Clemency (File No. SA2002RF0016) works similar to the current jury system. This new system would provide for a five-member panel in every county to rule on reasonable requests for clemency of non-violent and very ill prisoners in that county. These citizens would be paid \$100 a day instead of the \$1.50 I received for my last service. Support for my plan comes from Joseph McNamara of the Hoover Institute at Stanford; the Sentencing Project, a well-respected research and information organization in Washington D.C.; and the California NAACP, which voted to support the plan at its October 2001 statewide convention. Many private citizens who found my ballot initiative on the government Web site have called to praise this idea.

The one critic of my idea is a respected law professor, Franklin Zimmerman. He called it, "Good intentions run amuck."

My petition would do the following:

1. Save more than a billion dollars in prison costs in its first few years.
2. Reduce prison population by the thousands.
3. California can close or reuse prisons as rehabilitation centers, as space will be needed due to the passage of Proposition 36.
4. Offer hope to those who have realized their wrongs and are praying for forgiveness.
5. Offer hope to those like Mark Smith,

who is dying in prison because Governor Davis thinks he is a risk to society.

6. Reduce the number of incidents by staff or inmates with lower prison numbers.

7. Eliminate prison overcrowding permanently by offering clemency to nonviolent prisoners who qualify by taking advantage of educational opportunities as well as good behavior.

8. Remove the politics from the criminal justice system.

There are some risks:

1. Releasing the wrong person.
2. Not helping those who are released readjust to society.
3. Fraud, by not monitoring the system properly.

These risks are minimized by the fact that violent criminals wouldn't qualify for release. Nonviolent prisoners who do

qualify for clemency can be helped with a portion of the financial savings to the current prison budget. And knowing that some will do anything to get out of prison, it would make the penalty for fraud in this area severe. And no one under my plan will be released without consideration from victims (though rare in nonviolent crimes) and a complete medical release.

But what chance does the average citizen have on getting a message of this size to the California voter without having millions of dollars?

None, unless people care. ▼

Guest Opinion

Allen Jones is a prison reformer who lives in San Francisco. You may contact him for more information by e-mail: ajones113@juno.com.

LETTERS

Dems abandon gay marriage

For the first time in 26 years, I did not spend Christmas in Nashville with my family. But the B.A.R. still gave me a taste of my old home on December 26. The cover story regarding the Democratic Party's abandonment of marriage equality reminded me of the kind of self-destructive LGBT "activism" that made me give up on the Old South three years ago and move to San Francisco ("Gay lawmakers toss aside civil unions in marriage rights fight," December 26).

The change in strategy, from pursuing marriage equality to instead accepting only modified domestic partnerships, has nothing to do with mere semantics, as the article implied. If "just not calling it marriage" were really enough, then "civil unions" should have done the trick, right? No, this shift within the LGBT caucus has more to do with supporting the Democratic Party at all costs, even when a Democratic majority in the Assembly and a Democratic governor have repeatedly failed to allow us one of the most basic rights – the right to marry the person we love.

I am proud that I cast my votes for the Libertarian Party, which has consistently supported fully equal rights for LGBT people, no more, and no less, since 1972. The paralyzing fear among the Democratic leadership of this town is that more LGBT people, as well as their friends and family, will realize as I did that there are other choices on voting day besides Democrat and Republican. So, to try to keep our votes as the "lesser of two evils," the Democrats decided that they have to at least look like they're helping our community. And their solution is nothing more than "separate, but equal," an archaic policy that inherently postpones true equality. I hope the LGBT voters see through the ploy and continue to push their elected leaders for truly equal same-sex marriage rights.



Rob Power
Chair, Outright Libertarians of the SF Bay Area
Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of San Francisco

Don't stereotype Newark

How curious it is, one would expect a gay newspaper to espouse unity; to show how in our diversities we are worthy of love, compassion, understanding, and respect. Jon Sugar's guest opinion about Newark was hardly any of the above ("Newark: Defined by the mall," December 26). This tragedy is just that, a tragedy; the many facets of how and why it happened can only be known by those involved. Empathy will go further to shed some light on these facets than anger and mistrust. Yes, those were nice boys, yes Gwen was flirting with danger, and yes, no one ought lose their life for such a thing. But someone did and many of us have been deeply touched by it.

Having been raised in this small town and having spent most of my 38 years here, I have been very moved by this tragedy. I was out in my high school years here, long before GLASS (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Support). I've always considered myself lucky to have been brought up in a town in the shadow of this great metropolis, San Francisco. I received very little taunting in my teen years. I often heard coming out and being out stories that frightened me. I understood the dangers that being out brought; I was both lucky and careful. It's about how one carries oneself, the company they keep, and timing.

Much of life is being in the right or wrong place at any given time. To belittle small town living as ignorant living is at least narrow minded, if not down right bigoted. One would expect members of our community to look for the strengths in our differences. May I remind Mr. Sugar that you can't have the luxury, grace, beauty, and perversions (also a good thing) of San Francisco without the symbiotic relationships to its suburbs and rural farmlands. I find someone new with interesting conversation nearly every day at my restaurant. They come from suburbs, farms, and even big cities. Coming to Newark and asking questions like "Do you think they beat their girlfriends? I'm guessing they wear dresses?" does very little to help teach tolerance and understanding. To say a small town is defined by the mall is like saying gay men lisp. Stereotypes, while based in a reality, are far from truths, and are rarely welcome.

Will Victoria
Newark, California

Cutbacks at AIDS agencies

First my honest and sincere congratulations to Messrs. Smith, Nolan, and Lipp, executive directors of the AIDS Emergency Fund, Project Open Hand and Positive Resource Center, and your staffs. You may have just gone through the most financially difficult period in your respective agency's existence and you have all survived, with a few bumps and bruises, but thankfully for the 1,000s of San Franciscans who access your life saving services on a daily basis, you are still here.

Mr. Bajko's review of what was in fact a terrifying year for nonprofit agencies actually provides a glimmer of hope and expectation for 2003 ("Four non-

profit agencies weather dreary financial year," December 26). As for Mr. Paul Graham, "AIDS advocate and fundraiser," and his comments, I am heartened to know that after checking with some of San Francisco's better known personalities and fundraisers in the drag and leather communities for the agencies mentioned (and many, many others) no one had ever heard of him. If the only critic available for Mr. Bajko's article of how nonprofits are strategically, painstakingly, and tirelessly planning to ease the pain of forced reductions in services because of economic hardship is someone who has never applied to be a board member or never organized a fundraiser for the mentioned agencies, then I know my former colleagues, friends, and acquaintances are doing right by all of us.

Do not forget that the best way to effect change is from the inside. If throwing stones at those who work tirelessly and often unpaid (board, volunteers, fundraisers) is your answer, I strongly challenge you to put your thoughts to paper which in turn at least provides the opportunity for dialogue and then for change to occur. Standing on the sidelines and crying "foul" is not constructive and only leads to animosity, not problem solving.

To everyone who takes the time to do your part to improve what is still an uncertain future for many of San Francisco's less advantaged, my admiration goes out to you. To those who would like to do something but don't know what help you could provide, simply pick up the phone. Trust me, the offer of help is never turned away.

P.S.: PRC did not "lose a large grant in the fall of 2001." The nationally awarded Department of Education grant in 1998 was one which was not automatically renewed. After a six-month application effort competing against many more agencies for fewer DOE grants across the United States, PRC was simply not awarded another contract.

Mark J. Murphy, Former Board President
Positive Resource Center
San Francisco

New York's gay rights law

I read Dale Carpenter's column in the *Bay Area Reporter* about the passage of gay rights legislation in the Empire State, something I agree is long overdue ("A lesson and a warning from New York," OutRight, December 26). I was surprised Governor George Pataki and the Republican Senate finally allowed the bill to become law with or without transgender rights written into it. I have a problem supporting the Republican Party in general because the Republican Party so overwhelmingly does not support any form of gay rights, choosing to listen to the conservative "Christian" wing of its party. In support of my argument, the Human Rights Campaign publishes a scorecard for congressional members and senators. According to their scorecard, only 17 percent of Republican legislators will even sign on to a pledge not to discriminate in hiring and firing of their personal staff let alone support ENDA, the federal gay civil rights bill.

So I wrote a letter to HRC and told them that I had problems contributing to their political action committee because they supported people like former Congresswoman Connie Morella or Maine Senator Susan Collins. What I pointed out was that, while I could recognize the wisdom of attempting to develop Republican Party support for gay rights, I just could not bring myself to turn over my hard-earned money to their PAC, knowing one of the first votes Morella or Collins would cast would be a vote to betray gay people – namely a vote for Representative Dennis Hastert as speaker of the House and Senator Trent Lott as Senate majority leader – both of whom have earned a big fat goose egg (zero) on HRC's scorecard of gay rights support. Yet Pataki is a notable exception along with Rudy Giuliani. Also, if I remember correctly, it was a Republican governor in the state of Nevada that signed that state's gay rights law.

While I think the gay community should not totally abandon transgender rights, gay rights legislation and successes are a piecemeal approach – we would not want to throw the baby out with the bath water, as in the case of New York, and miss an opportunity to obtain protection for upstate New York gay people simply because we could not get transgenders included in the current bill. However, we cannot fail to recognize that, by and large, gay people's butter is certainly found on the Democratic Party side of the bread. Efforts to develop Republican Party support for gay rights have been paltry and disappointing at best. Surveys show that while we have Republican support for gay rights on either the east or west coasts, the American heartland in between is a vast wasteland of Republican Party support for gay rights, presenting a thorny problem on how best to proceed from here or out. We would be idiots not to recognize that in some areas of the country, gay people have to walk a fine line between Republicans and Democrats, the transgender issue is one of many thorns for the gay community in the sense of how to get transgender

next page ►

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people some help while not foolishly passing up possible missed opportunities.

George Collins
Berkeley, California.

Day jobs

After shopping for a half-decade at the same store, I know some of the checkout clerks. One of them seems too intelligent to work permanently at this mundane job.

So I've long assumed it was just a "day job," intended to subsidize spare-time writing, performing, or other ego-driven creativity. (As a bumper sticker proclaims, "Most REAL folk musicians need day jobs")

Recently I was amazed to discover that the subsidized calling is hospice work, perhaps helping PWAs. I'm too selfish to follow such an altruistic life-path, but I admire those few who do.

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

Bold HIV ad campaign

I was disappointed to see Robert Levine's letter ("Stop AIDS Project's ad campaign," December 26) critical of the recent "HIV is No Picnic" HIV prevention campaign. While I have been falsely accused of "hating" the Stop AIDS Project (I don't hate the SAP organization, but I dislike its behavior concerning accountability of public health funds), I strongly support this ad campaign, and have presented public testimony at a recent local CARE Council meeting praising the Department of Public Health's involvement in presenting this reality-based ad campaign.

I encourage DPH to continue and expand this ad campaign, to show more outcomes, such as progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, dementia, amputations, and stroke – not in a fear-based manner, but in ads honestly depicting outcomes of HIV progression. My rationale is that if people at risk were to see potential outcomes visually – without being inundated with fear-based propaganda as text – that behavior would change, possibly overnight. Presented with factual photographs, who among us would disagree that losing an arm or leg is more uncomfortable than wearing a condom? As a takeoff on a seat belt ad by the Ad Council, I continue suggesting to DPH a possible tag line for such advertising: "Losing a limb. Compared to wearing a rubber, now that's uncomfortable."

Levine could not be further removed from reality: This campaign is not exploiting people living with HIV/AIDS, nor should the ads be seen from the myopic position that it is funded at the cost of those dying. While I agree with Levin that SAP has wasted millions on fruitless goals, I disagree with his call for redirecting the funds for this prevention campaign to "worthy causes" he listed, all falling under the healthcare services funding umbrella, rather than to prevention. Does Levine believe all prevention ads are unworthy of funding, or just those using reality-based messages? For the past 20 years, we have seen prevention programs slighted financially in order for the lion's share of funding to go to health services, and the end result has been devastating: more infections rather than infections prevented.

Alternatively, had Les Pappas (now at Better World Advertising) been creating these kinds of reality-based ads when he designed SFAF's artsy-fartsy prevention ads for 10 years, maybe we wouldn't have the number of AIDS cases the city now has. Similarly, if the "HIV is No Picnic" ads were run consistently and simultaneously around the nation, possibly the 40,000 new infections annually could be substantially reduced. Is that such a bad thing to work toward?

Levine mistakenly projects onto SAP a motive that the ads were designed to "demoralize and humiliate" those living with HIV/AIDS. As a psychotherapist, Levine should recognize "projection" when he sees it. What he fails to discern is that if this ad campaign is at all successful, even only by preventing a single new seroconversion, it will have been cost-effective by having helped someone avoid having to live with HIV, therein reducing future demoralization. Why is that not a laudable goal, and why should prevention funds be subsumed to those who may need "the money for housing, food, meds, or just plain living"? This smacks of implying that those already infected are somehow more deserving of limited resources than are others.

In hard-hit communities of color that do not self-identify as gay, such advertising may well be a wake-up call to counteract the so-called complacency that HAART combination/cocktail therapy can act as a morning-after pill. Such advertising, featuring people of color, may help develop community-wide recognition of the severity of HIV/AIDS outcomes, and the threat it poses to communities of color. San Francisco's new Ms. Ellie ads ("Honey, your secrets could kill you...") don't go far enough.

For my part, I'll be writing Senators Feinstein and Boxer (and others) encouraging them to ignore

Levine's opinions, and advocating for increased funding for expanded reality-based HIV prevention campaigns in all communities, including communities of color.

Patrick Monette-Shaw
San Francisco

More on ad campaign

I was interested that Robert Levine ("Stop AIDS Project's ad campaign,") made such an impassioned case against the Stop AIDS campaign for being "divisive" in a very divisive way. Rallying the community for intervention by the feds seems overblown and counterproductive. If Mr. Levine has such strong feelings and opinions about this particular campaign, why doesn't he go to the source and have a constructive dialogue with the people at Stop AIDS? It is always preferable to resolve a conflict directly with those involved. I imagine the Stop AIDS folks would also welcome support and input in figuring out other strategies for dissuading gay men from seroconverting. Personally, as an HIV-positive man, I have no problem with this campaign. Revealing the potential consequences of HIV disease makes sense in a city where HIV has gone underground to a certain extent. I don't have much faith, though, in fear-based approaches. But, no matter where we all stand on the issues raised by Mr. Levine, I think we can all agree, "HIV is no picnic ... and certainly not a cocktail party"!

Jamie McHugh
San Francisco

New online HIV support group

Contrary to most publicity, an HIV diagnosis can be the start of a new life and new career. A number of friends have gone back to school, changed careers, or otherwise found new meaning in life.

Most prominent amongst these people are members of an e-mail group known as "Thriving." We correspond by e-mail and meet face-to-face several times a month. Contrary to the paradigm of disease, death, diarrhea and depression, these people are powerful, cheerful and moving ahead with their lives. We are establishing a new way to deal with this disease through supportive relationships and optimism and the help of enlightened doctors.

We have no membership fees and have self-organized outside the traditional AIDS service organizations. Anyone interested should send their e-mail address to rowegregory@yahoo.com for more information about this new paradigm for living with HIV. Please mention thriving in the subject line.

John Cailleau
San Francisco

Like journalism, only different

Writer Robert Julian seemed to have been channeling *Mommy Dearest* when he penned his hateful commentary of the LGBT Community Center ("Escaping 2002: Ten mindless distractions," December 26). The very existence of such a center is a testament to the open mindedness and fraternity that exists within our city. Heck, even if it were housed in a double-wide trailer in SOMA, that would be more than most communities around the world have. Julian, the trenchant hack, likened the structure to "an airline terminal shitting a teal Victorian turd." His jabs do the GLBT community a real disservice. When I thought of all of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people who he insults with his base commentary, I knew that I had to respond. Hey, Robert, it might be campy to poke fun at celebrities and politicians, but our center should remain off limits, unless of course there are real issues to be dealt with. On December 26 Robert Julian made the *Bay Area Reporter* look like a community newspaper that shat a repugnant article.

Tom Cogburn
San Francisco

[Robert Julian responds: A writer writes because of what he has to say, not because of what other people want to hear.]

Club should accept responsibility

In the letter concerning truth and dirty tricks (Mailstrom, December 26), Tanya Cole and the Milk Club fail to recognize that it is unethical campaign conduct and also illegal to distribute campaign signs without identification no matter what the message. The best way for the Milk Club and our community to get past this is for Ms. Cole and the Milk Club to accept responsibility for their actions and stop blaming the victims of their campaign tactics.

Dennis Edelman
San Francisco

Send letters to the *Bay Area Reporter*, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, or e-mail to BARpaper@aol.com. Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Democrats lining up to challenge Bush

by Wayne Friday

With former Vice President Al Gore out of the next presidential race there is no Democratic front-runner for the party's nomination so there are candidates aplenty jumping into the fray to take on what looks for now like a very formidable George Bush as he looks to a second term in the 2004 election.

Bush's approval ratings still loom in the near-70 percent range, but Democratic would-be presidents are quick to point out that this president's father had a 90 percent approval rating in 1991 before he met up with a relatively unknown Arkansas governor, Bill Clinton.

Outgoing House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri announced this week that he will officially get into the race on January 22.



Our Man Friday

Edwards, at 49, is the youngest of the announced Democrats and Graham, at 66, is the oldest. Many political observers think that while it is far too early to even

possibly predict a winner, Graham of Florida, a political moderate who is extremely popular among voters of all parties in a state with a large group of electoral votes; Kerry, a decorated war veteran with a huge personal family fortune; and Gephardt start off as the early favorites to win the Democratic nod.

Lieberman, by virtue of being on the Gore ticket in 2000, is probably the best-known of the list, but his laid back style of campaigning and his failure to bring much to the 2000 ticket could actually work against him.

Edwards, an attractive, young, well-spoken, wealthy trial lawyer in his first Senate term, is thought by many to more likely end up as a vice presidential nominee on a ticket possibly headed by either Kerry or Gephardt.

Other Democratic dark horses thought to be considering the race include former Colorado Senator Gary Hart, Connecticut Senator Christopher Dodd, and retired General Wesley Clark.

Even Mayor Willie Brown told a local LGBT television show last month that he is thinking about running.

With Gore on the sidelines, none of the likely Democratic candidates has an early start, with the possible exception of Gephardt. But Gephardt could be criticized as one of Bush's strongest allies when last fall he led the fight to win congressional approval to go to war against Iraq. If that war becomes a reality and goes badly, it will become a leading issue in the next presidential election.

Many top Democratic strategists clearly feel they have a chance to take out Bush next year, particularly if the nation's economy stays in the tank, and while most expect Bush to drop Vice President Dick Cheney as his running mate, he remains a very popular figure. An early Democrat that I think could give Dubya a run for his Texas oil money? Graham of Florida for president with Kerry of Massachusetts for his vice running mate.

Where is Bill Clinton when the Democrats really need the guy?

Politics and people

Senator John Kerry, North Carolina Senator John Edwards, and gaudy New York civil rights activist, the Reverend Al Sharpton, who heads the nonprofit group National Action Network, and was a former candidate for U.S. senator and mayor of New York City.



Reverend Al Sharpton

The Democratic field is expected to grow to at least half a dozen candidates soon as others like Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman, Gore's 2000 running mate; Senator Bob Graham of Florida; and possibly Delaware Senator Joseph Biden make their

plans known.

On Tuesday, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) announced that he would not seek the 2004 presidential nomination.

Recent public opinion polls conducted among Democratic voters show New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton now leading the pack of all possible Democratic contenders, but the former first lady has repeatedly said she will not be a candidate.

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possibly predict a winner, Graham of Florida, a political moderate who is extremely popular among voters of all parties in a state with a large group of electoral votes; Kerry, a decorated war veteran with a huge personal family fortune; and Gephardt start off as the early favorites to win the Democratic nod.

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Where is Bill Clinton when the Democrats really need the guy?

Got a political tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com.

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Anti-war madness

by Dale Carpenter

Choosing its wrong-headed anti-Persian Gulf War stand of 12 years ago, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has joined up with a gaggle of peace-at-any-price groups issuing a statement opposed to military action against Iraq. NGLTF's anti-war stand is wrong for two reasons. First, there are good reasons to support a war if it comes to that. Second, while the issue of possible war is a very serious one, it is not a particularly "gay" issue.

On the substantive question of whether to attack Iraq, NGLTF offers unpersuasive reasons for its opposition.

The anti-war statement NGLTF has signed onto begins by agreeing with the Bush administration that "Saddam Hussein cannot be allowed to possess weapons of mass destruction."

It's worth considering why this

is so. Put to one side Saddam's unbelievable cruelty to his own people. He is (1) a megalomaniacal dictator (2) with a long record of aggression against his neighbors (3) in a region of vital strategic importance (4) who's hell-bent on getting his hands on nukes and (5) is surrounded by fearful sycophants telling him he can do no wrong and lose no war.

Those five facts, which no knowledgeable person disputes, are an explosive combination. They make Saddam an unusually dangerous man prone to gross overestimation of his

power and serious miscalculation. He attacked Iran in 1980 thinking he'd win a decisive victory in short order. He invaded Kuwait and stayed there believing he could beat the U.S. and its allies. He attacked Israel with 50 missiles thinking he'd spark a region-wide Arab-Israeli conflict. All bad misjudgments.

A nuclear-armed Soviet Union



was deterred during the Cold War because its leaders realistically understood the costs of war, as do the leaders of nuclear-armed China and Russia today. Not so Saddam. A nuclear-armed Saddam would be an effectively undeterred megalomaniac with a megaloween.

How do NGLTF and its "progressive" allies, therefore, plan to prevent what all agree would be a calamity? "We support rigorous U.N. weapons inspections to assure Iraq's effective disarmament," they say.

Let's pause to enjoy the irony of this statement. Weapons inspectors are in Iraq now, as they were not in the last years of the Clinton administration, only because of the threats of military action issued by the Bush administration, which the left has spent the past few months denouncing as warmongering.

Weapons inspections alone will not likely "assure" Iraq's disarmament. Saddam's regime has lied, obstructed, and delayed to thwart them over the past 12 years. It's foolhardy to think a hundred or so inspectors will ferret out all the weapons or weapons-programs in a hostile country the size of California.

NGLTF and its peace-loving comrades worry that a war "will increase human suffering, arouse animosity toward our country, increase the likelihood of terrorist attacks, damage the economy, and undermine our moral standing in the world." In fact, a war is more likely to do the opposite of all these things.

Human suffering in Iraq, already at unbearable levels under Saddam, would be alleviated if he were removed. There might be some short-term anger at the U.S. in the Arab world and some corresponding increase in terrorist recruitment, but in the long-term most (especially most Iraqis) will welcome the elimination of a hated dictator and the restoration of civilization to the country. As for the economy, the last war showed that returning regional stability to the Middle East by beating an aggressor is a boon. And if the "moral standing" of the U.S. around the world really suffers because we liberate yet another country from medievalism, we'll just have to bear that cost.

What's remarkable about this discussion so far is how none of it has anything in particular to do with gay rights. If there's a gay interest at all, it's in removing an anti-gay regime to make the lives of gay Iraqis at least marginally tolerable. But that would counsel gay support for a war, and NGLTF opposes it.

NGLTF's only explanation of the connection between a potential Iraq war and gay rights is this: "In the aftermath of September 11, we have become increasingly alarmed," said NGLTF Executive Director Lorri Jean in a press release. "Without the constitutional rights and protections now being gutted by this administration, our GLBT movement would not be where it is today."

NGLTF did not specify which rights it believes have been "gutted" — courts have upheld almost every step taken so far to increase domestic security — but they evidently don't include the right to issue non sequiturs in press releases.

The measures NGLTF complains of came in response to Sep-

page 18 ►



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If you don't think the death tax is a gay issue, you've never lost a life partner.

A lot has been written about tax reform throughout 2002, as it jumped to the top of the list of national legislative priorities in the U.S. Congress. One particular aspect was the debate over the permanent repeal of the death tax.

At first, you may think that the death tax isn't something that applies to you. This is particularly true of younger Americans who are not yet thinking about things like wills and estate planning. But people can tragically die, whether young or old.

So without a doubt, the death tax is about you. And if you're gay or lesbian, it is a discriminatory tax that can bankrupt your loved ones at the worst possible moment — the time of your death. Your partner will pay a 55% tax whereas the partner of a traditional couple will not.

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Permanently repealing the death tax is good for all Americans. It will allow businesses to stay in business, employees to keep their jobs, and communities to maintain local businesses. It will allow family businesses to grow, and keep the livelihood of the family that they worked so hard to achieve.



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Darrel Nystrom, "HIV Is No Picnic" spokesperson and Positive Force participant

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Gay Democrats turn focus away from D.C.

by Matthew S. Bajko

With the Republican stronghold over all three legislative branches in Washington, D.C. the Stonewall Democrats, a national gay political group, is beefing up its operations in individual states and moving away from a sole focus on the capital.

After the drubbing many Democratic candidates took in the last election, and the party's losing control of the Senate, the ability of groups to push pro-gay legislation through Congress has greatly diminished. Instead, the Stonewall Democrats are launching new initiatives in numerous states in an effort to wrest control of Congress, and possibly the White House, away from Republicans in 2004.

"The fact that Republicans now control all three branches of government in essence will serve to demonstrate exactly what Republicans want to do with respect to issues that impact LGBT Americans," said Chad Johnson, Stonewall Democrats' former executive director. "So a lot of the work over the next two-year cycle will be educating gay and lesbian voters about what the Republican dominated Congress, in concert with a Republican president, are doing or are not doing for us as a



Stonewall Democrats' Chad Johnson

community."

Johnson assumed the organization's new position of federal political director this month to assist the various Stonewall clubs in electing Democratic candidates and pushing gay rights bills. The organization is also expanding its local and national operations as it enters the new congressional session and the 2004 election cycle.

During the last year, the Stonewall Democrats took steps to increase its federal advocacy, political research, and electoral efforts. In 2002, the organization implemented an electoral pilot project which witnessed an increased turnout among gay voters for Democratic candidates in key states and worked closely with the Democratic National Committee to increase voter turnout.

As a part of that effort, over the last year the political group has assisted grassroots LGBT Democrats to form more than 25 new local and regional clubs and raised the organization's profile in the national media.

"We've reached a point where we believe expansion is necessary to fulfill NSD's hybrid mission of supporting grassroots activism and enhancing the national voice and influence of LGBT Democrats," said Johnson.

His task will not be easy with Republicans in control of the legislative agenda in Washington. And while the Republicans have trumpeted their new majority leader, Tennessee Senator Bill Frist, as a more moderate voice than former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Mississippi), Johnson said the reality is Frist

and Lott rank the same in terms of LGBT legislation.

While Frist has met with Log Cabin Republicans, he has been awarded a zero rating from the Human Rights Campaign for his voting record on LGBT issues in the last Congress.

"Gay Republicans may say they have had a dialogue with Frist, which is true. But the fact is they had a dialogue and he still received a zero voting rating doesn't bare well for our community influencing his vote."

As the new Congress convenes, Johnson said he is pessimistic about any pro-gay legislation being brought up for a vote. He said his priority over the next two years will be to educate gay and lesbian voters about the Republicans' record in hopes of driving more LGBT voters to the polls.

"I am hoping that if Republicans are as anti-gay as they have been in the past, and there is no reason to think otherwise, that in 2004 gay Democrats will have a much easier time delineating the differences in the parties because it was so obvious what the Republican agenda is all about," Johnson said.

At the top of his watch list in the new year is how the administration and Congress approach AIDS funding and HIV prevention.

"Do I think they will cut Ryan White funding and other things we care about? Absolutely," he said. "That is one of the key issues in the next two years. It is not going to be good for our community."

One bright spot may be federal hate crimes legislation, which Johnson said may stand a chance of passage. But he cautioned if the conservative right wing maintains a grasp on the Republican Party, such a bill may not be passed.

"I don't see ENDA [Employment Non-Discrimination Act] or other issues out there that are going to get much play by the Republicans," he said. "It is pretty clear the Republicans are controlled by the right wing. I think the right wing will veto everything else and probably hate crimes as well."

As new federal campaign finance laws come into effect this year, Johnson will also assume the role of managing director of the

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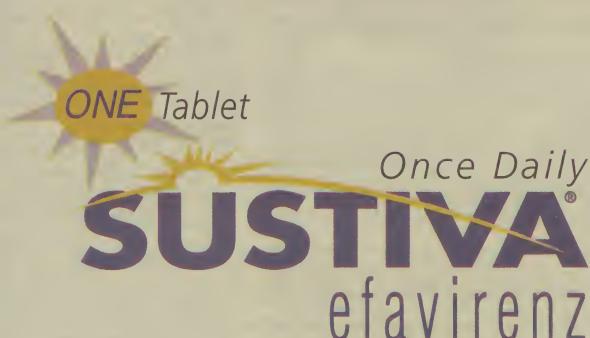
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Lesbian couple has first baby of the year in Washington D.C.

by Bob Roehr

Celebrating the first baby born in the new year is a media tradition. This year there was a new twist to the old tale in the Washington, D.C. area – the beaming parents were lesbians. The news was splashed across the front page of the *Washington Post* on January 2.

Helen Rubin, 33, gave birth to a baby girl at one minute after midnight in the new year, after 15 long hours of labor. Her partner of 12 years, Joanna Bare, 35, was at her side. The couple had expected a boy and had settled on a male name but they were not prepared for this gender surprise.

The pending birth had prompted the couple to move from Virginia to Maryland just

one week earlier. It illustrated the legal problems that gays and lesbians face in creating families.

Virginia does not allow second party adoption, so the only way that Bare could have obtained legal rights and responsibilities in raising the child would have been for Rubin to give up her.

"I really liked living in Virginia, but it's more important to be a parent," Bare told the *Post*. "We're not interested in any legal battles, we're interested in having a family that works – with two parents. That's why we moved."

Even the conservative *Washington Times* got into the act with a favorable story. "This child is going to have a traditional family. She'll have traditional grandparents on both sides, traditional aunts and uncles. This is our family," said newly minted grandfa-

ther Howard Rubin.

"They are committed to each other in the same way I am committed to my wife and my wife is committed to me," Rubin continued. "Helen couldn't have a better partner to accompany her through life."

The *Post* tackled the legal issues in an editorial the following day. It said, "Virginia is persistently retrograde in how it treats the inescapable modern reality of gay families."

"Family values," in the term's strictest interpretation, is a fantasy. About half of American children don't grow up with their mother and father anyway. Lesbians will have children as long as there is a live maternal instinct and a nearby fertility clinic. Gay men will adopt. All that the Virginia courts can achieve by standing firm is to drive

them out of the state."

In late November the influential American Law Institute concluded a decade of study of family law by releasing a broad series of recommendations. It said that sexual orientation should not be a factor in issues such as child custody and other matters concerning divorce. In most instances, domestic partnerships should be treated like marriage.

The Pennsylvania Superior Court has acted in that spirit. In December it ruled that a lesbian must pay child support for five children born during the course of a relationship with a woman, even though there was no formal second party adoption of the children. It found that the separated partner clearly acted as a parent and could not simply walk away from those responsibilities. ▶

National Black Lesbian conference approaching

by Zak Szymanski

Thursday, January 16 is the early registration deadline to secure the \$150 discount rate for the National Black Lesbian conference, held this year at the Radisson Hotel Los Angeles West-side from April 11-13.

With a theme of "Building Community: Moving Forward,"

and three full days of plenary sessions, workshops, and arts and culture, the conference seeks to convene a national gathering of black lesbians so that they can participate in a process that will allow them to share experiences, learn from each other, and establish a foundation for future advocacy.

Friday, April 11 includes onsite registration (the rate jumps to \$250 after March 15), a continen-

tal breakfast, workshops, a welcome reception, and dance performances. Saturday, April 12, in addition to the plenary session and workshops, includes a banquet and scheduled entertainment. Sunday's activities include a gospel brunch and closing forum. All three days, of course, are enhanced by the socializing and networking that occurs whenever a diverse population with common

interests are residing under the same roof.

The National Black Lesbian conference is sponsored by several well-known community organizations, such as Lyon-Martin, Astraea, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Arise magazine, the Human Rights Campaign, Los Angeles Black Pride ("At the Beach"), and Progressive Research page 19 ▶

PATIENT INFORMATION

SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah) [efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)] capsules and tablets

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the body (viral load). When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may cause side effects. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue SUSTIVA.

Common side effects: Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have been taking SUSTIVA for a few weeks. If you have any of these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rash may be so severe you may need to stop taking SUSTIVA. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA. Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

Rx ONLY

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

General Information

- Please take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your dose may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacist. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see *Can children take SUSTIVA?*).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA in children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules contain lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant. Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant. Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with SUSTIVA not breast-feed because they can pass the virus through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver, or have hepatitis. Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctor and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and prescription.
- Bring all your prescription and non-prescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of them as how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort (*hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking, or are planning to take, St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**.

- Hismal® (astemazole)

- Propidil® (cispide)

- Versed® (midazolam)

- Halcion® (triazolam)

- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

- The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA**.

- Foramiv®, Invirase® (saquinavir)

- Blavir® (clarithromycin)

- The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**.

- Crizivir® (indinavir)

- Mycothub® (rifabutin)

- Methadone

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

These are some important pieces of information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

DP assessment

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is bothered by it," Teng said, adding "I fully expect the board to back San Francisco's ruling."

In the meantime, Teng said she is forming a community advisory committee composed of a dozen LGBT community activists and legal professionals to advise her on the issue.

"I am meeting with the city attorney to look at ways strengthen it even more and to make it my ruling. That will be my first act as new assessor," said Teng. "This issue is very complicated in terms of the California taxation code. We have to do it with very thoughtful consideration and it is not something I will announce lightly."

Landmark ruling

When Ward announced the ruling last October, San Francisco became the first city and county in the state not to reassess the property of domestic partners when one partner dies. Three people have benefited from the ruling, avoiding expensive increases in tax assessments.

Joseph Grubb learned late last year he would be exempted from having his property reassessed after the death of his partner, Peter Bellinger, who died in April 2001. He said he is outraged that the state agency is trying to rescind the city's ruling.

"It just fills me with a great sense of umbrage that the state board should come in and meddle in local affairs when I believe the assessor's office is operating well within the law in enacting this rule," said Grubb, executive director of the city's rent stabilization and arbitration board. "I don't think it exceeds their authority."

Grubb spent 23 years living together with his partner and said

they both jointly owned property in the city. A year after Bellinger's death, Grubb received a notice from the assessor's office saying his property taxes would double to nearly \$5,000. Shocked that he would be penalized while married couples would not, Grubb appealed the reassessment.

"I felt highly insulted by the fact I was basically a second-class citizen. The relationship Peter and I had was practically chopped liver," said Grubb.

Because he had appealed the matter, he was able to take advantage of the new ruling. He said he only wishes other couples who found themselves in the same predicament in the past could have benefited from the ruling.

"The real issue here is of justice, fairness, and equity. It is a very minor way to provide equity to couples who have paid all their taxes these years to the county and state and made contributions to society," said Grubb. "The fact we are not afforded the same considerations as our next door neighbors is a gross injustice and I think the Board of Equalization should recognize that."

He said he is hopeful having Migden ascend to the tax board will bode well for the city's ruling, and that ultimately, the decision to exempt his property from reassessment will not be overturned.

"I pity the whole board when Carole gets a hold of them," he said. "I am just shocked there is not more deference given to local jurisdictions to make these kinds of rulings that are within the prerogative of each assessor, or more sympathy from the board."

Already gay activists are pushing for Marin's assessor, Joan Thayer, to enact a ruling similar to San Francisco's. Thayer did not return calls seeking comment.

But according to one person pressing the issue in Marin, Thayer has advised the group that her

office agrees with the tax board counsel that the ruling is unconstitutional. Interested Marin residents will be meeting January 15 to discuss how to proceed.

"I wanted to get together a group of people who are presidents of different organizations so we can discuss where we are and do we have a means to continue or don't we," said Kyle Dutoit, who moved to Marin County from the city three years ago with his partner. "One concern is if this is the right time to pursue this, especially with the state deficit. Or is it going to get nailed simply because people do not want to lose taxes?"

Dutoit, who is retired, said he is concerned that when he dies, his partner could be crippled with a huge property tax he cannot afford.

"He is going to get nailed and vice versa," said Dutoit. "Not only that, but a guy in Marin County lost his partner of 20 years, and within 10 days Marin County sent him a reassessment and his property taxes went up nearly 220 percent. That is absurd."

Dutoit said he would like to see Marin pass a ruling that, unlike San Francisco's which covers only domestic partners, covers all people who co-own property together.

"It should be for all co-owners. This is not just a gay issue," he said. "It should be more inclusive."

As for San Francisco's ruling, the city has been reviewing whether or not a tax code rule allowing individuals a three-year window to file an assessment appeal would apply to the domestic partner ruling. Under that ruling, an individual has up to three years from the time of an assessment to file an appeal.

"We were looking at this issue but could not make an announcement in time before leaving office," said Ron Chun, Ward's deputy assessor who helped write the ruling. "The city cannot reduce the past taxes they have already paid, but if in a three-year window, you could ask for a reduction for future tax assessments."

Teng said she intends to address that issue in the coming weeks. ▼

Leal mayoral bid

◀ page 1

stilled in her belief, she said, that "this country, and in particular this city, is a place of infinite possibilities."

The world has changed since her parents arrived 75 years ago, said Leal, "mostly in ways that are terrific." But today, she added, the same opportunities that allowed people like Leal to succeed are now at risk.

"When playgrounds, libraries, and health services are at risk, opportunity is at risk," said Leal.

Fiscal background

In the difficult times ahead, said Leal, San Franciscans must know that their mayor has the financial skills and seasoned judgment to "lead us to prosperity."

As city treasurer for the past five years, Leal is often credited with her wise investment decisions that created the greatest return of any other major county in California.

But just as important, she said, San Franciscans must know that opportunity for all San Franciscans will be a guiding principle.

"Will we preserve privilege?" challenged Leal, "or will we create opportunity?"

Leal praised businesses and artists alike, and, expressing concern for civil liberties and free speech in the wake of September 11, said, "Environmental and civil rights activists have never been more critical to public debate. Now is not the time to silence them."

Taking a slight dig at the trend from other mayoral candidates to

legislate through the ballot box instead of through a community process, Leal insisted that the city "can't be run by initiative ... we have to bring people together."

"Success will require hands-on leadership ... bringing people together to build consensus, and, hopefully not too often, to share sacrifice."

For most in attendance at Leal's kick-off, the newest prominent mayoral candidate represented the best of all worlds, someone with sound fiscal thinking yet progressive social ideals. For others, Leal's choice to run came a little too late, or represented the next best thing should their candidate of choice lose the election next November.

"I'm supporting Gavin," one man in the crowd told a Leal supporter, referring to Newsom. "He asked me early on. But I love Susan."

That sentiment, however, could work in Leal's favor, provided that the new instant runoff system is in place.

Yet Leal and her supporters believe that she has what it takes to be San Francisco's first choice for mayor.

As someone who has "never had the luxury of taking the easy road," said Leal, "I know hard work, and I know leadership."

"Let's walk together," said Leal, "to make San Francisco a great city of opportunity for all again." ▼

An unofficial Web site provides information on Leal's candidacy at www.susanleal2003.com. An official Web site will be up and running soon.

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Lawmakers ask for revived draft

by Bob Roehr

Some leading African American lawmakers are calling for the military draft to be reinstated, and if it is, the architect of the anti-gay "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy said that gays should also serve.

In a related matter, a group of 15 unnamed gays and lesbians now serving in various branches of the military has written to Congress to propose that if the draft returns, acknowledged homosexuals should be included in the armed forces.

"I will introduce [legislation] to resume the military draft," Democratic Representative Charles B. Rangel wrote in a column in the *New York Times* on December 31. The call did not come from a conservative but from a leading liberal who is a senior member of the congressional delegation from New York City and of the Congressional Black Caucus.

"I believe that if those calling for war knew that their children were likely to be required to serve – and to be put in harm's way – there would be more caution and a greater willingness to work with the international community in dealing with Iraq," he wrote.

Rangel, a Korean War combat veteran, had voted against the congressional resolution support-

ing the president on Iraq. He made it clear that his proposal was anti-war in nature and not in support of a larger military.

"A member introducing legislation that they don't really support in order to play politics and embarrass the president is disingenuous," Representative Nick Smith (R-Michigan) told the *Washington Post*. Smith co-sponsored the Universal Military Training and Service Act of 2001, which died in the House Armed Services Committee without a hearing. Rangel's bill is expected to suffer a similar fate.

One of the few members of Congress to join Rangel was John Conyers Jr. (D-Michigan), another senior member of the CBC. In a prepared statement, Conyers said the draft "removes the long-held stigma that people of color and persons from low-income backgrounds are disproportionately killed and injured while serving as ground troops on the front line."

That claim was disputed by Larry Wortzel, a retired Army colonel and defense analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation. He agreed that African Americans suffered a disproportionate number of casualties during the Vietnam War. But over the ensuing decades, a large portion of the African American presence in the military has shifted from combat to support positions.

Charles Moskos, a professor at Northwestern University who is sometimes called the father of the military's anti-gay policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," said that a revived draft would have to include women and gays. "You can't use a gay ban with a draft because that would make it too easy for people to get out."

"Of course there would be problems with that, there would be hassles, but they probably could be overcome," Moskos told the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, based at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Moskos said the draft was a "higher virtue" than the privacy rights of straight soldiers concerned with sharing a foxhole with gays.

Moskos, who has been criticized by colleagues and civil rights advocates for his defense of the military's anti-gay policy, acknowledged that his support for drafting gay might appear to undermine the rationale for banning openly gay soldiers.

The letter sent to congressional leaders from the unnamed gay and lesbian military members was unsigned in order to protect the anonymity of the military members. It was sent to Congress by CSSMM. According to CSSMM director Aaron Belkin, staff members conducted background interviews to check and verify the authenticity of the group, known as the Gay and Lesbian Service Members for Equality, after the group's president first contacted CSSMM last November.

"The 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy is harming the military by wasting precious talent and resources," the letter to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) and House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Illinois) stated. "We are writing because we believe that if there is a draft, gays and lesbians should be included in the draft and called on to sacrifice like everybody else. So, we ask you to call for the inclusion of acknowledged homosexuals if the draft is reinstated."

Retired military personnel are also speaking out on the issue of gays in the military.

"Our president tells us he will do anything to prevail in our war on terrorism," retired career sailor Keith Taylor wrote in a column in the December 16 edition of *Navy Times*. "If he means it, he'd better ask the functionaries at the Defense Language Institute to stop kicking out some of our most promising translators."

Taylor was apparently referring to the DLI's decision last year to kick out several linguists who are gay.

"If we want to learn about our enemies, we have to use folks who can learn the language, regardless of their sexual orientation ... Either our resolve to win the war on terrorism or our aversion to gays serving their own country has got to give," Taylor added. ▼

OutRight

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tember 11, not in anticipation of military action against Saddam. They would have been taken regardless of whether we attack Iraq.

To the extent the elimination of Saddam would increase American security, as I believe it would, it would relieve pressure to further reduce liberties. Besides, there's no evidence the war on terror has diminished the ability of gay groups to fight for gay civil rights.

Thus, while I share to a limited extent NGLTF's professed civil lib-

erties concerns, that's a poor reason for a gay group to oppose a war against Iraq.

So we come back to the question, why take a stand at all?

The answer, I think, is that NGLTF has completed its transformation from an organization concerned about gay rights to an organization concerned about all the world's problems. It is no longer a gay organization, and barely pretends to be. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

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2002: 'Transgender' truly comes of age

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

In 1971, a flyer distributed by the Los Angeles-based Transsexual Action Organization, or TAO, proclaimed that year to be "the Year of Trans Liberation!"

A year later a forgotten – at least by my source – rock and roll journalist proclaimed 1972 as "the year of the transsexual tramp."

Thirty years later, we have definitely reached another year worthy of such a claim. 2002 was definitely the year that "transgender" came of age.

It's not that everything has changed overnight, mind you. Transgendered people are still facing discrimination and ridicule. There is still a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation out there, and this is not going to change overnight. Much of that is coming from the good ol' media.

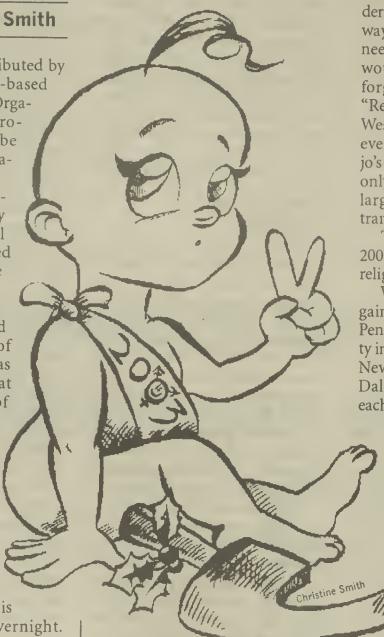
Hollywood continued to churn out poor tranny comedies last year, providing a trifecta of bland, one-note films: *Sorority Boys*, *Jawanna Mann*, and *The Hot Chick*. *No Hedwig and the Angry Inch* or *Southern Comfort* on the film list in 2002; just more "guy tries to deceive people by acting as a woman."

Likewise, television was largely lacking: a Learning Channel documentary focusing on transsexuals tended toward the tawdry, while *ER* showed us a high level of compassion by dressing a gender dysphoric child up in their birth gender and trying to tell us all that it would be okay in the end.

Jerry Springer and Maury Povich continued to pull out the stops with their usual cavalcade of transfolks, while talk show newcomer Dr. Phil let everyone know that crossdressers make bad husbands because they would rather masturbate into panties than have sex with their significant others.

It's not that some things remained much the same over last year and those before it, it simply feels like a new level has been reached.

When Uke Davis and Stephanie Thomas were killed in Washington, D.C., it wasn't ignored. More so, when Gwen Araujo was so brutally murdered, the transgender community did not have to push to keep the story in the media, the people of Newark, California did the job. Indeed, the show of support by the local community was beyond



what had been seen in any anti-transgender murder before. Hundreds of high school students cut class to attend the funeral of a person they never knew, all because they felt that a great wrong was done.

Of course, these three were only a few of the nearly 30 that were killed this year. Around half of those were in the United States, including one just days ago in Philadelphia. If anything has improved on this, however, it is that people are now seeing that transgendered people are worthy of life, and that appearing as a member of a gender different from what one was assigned at birth is not a valid reason to murder.

I would be remiss if I did not add a personal note here: The Transgender Day of Remembrance, an event that has happened since 1999 (and can be traced back to an earlier demonstration in 1998), exploded this year. What had been a collection of 23 locations in 2001 became nearly 100 locations in seven countries in 2002. The involvement of high school gay-straight alliances, college and university-level GLBT groups, and the MCC churches – among others – turned the event into a landmark moment for the transgender movement. A moment not lost on the event's founder.

All of this has not been lost on those who would seek to see transgendered people go away, either. Focus on the Family released its "white paper" on transgen-

derism in 2002, helping to lead the way on future attacks against the needs of transgendered people. It would also seem impossible to forget the involvement of the "Reverend" Fred Phelps and the Westboro Baptist Church in the events surrounding Gwen Araujo's murder. I suspect that this will only be the beginning of a much larger assault on recently won transgender rights.

There were better things in 2002 than the machinations of the religious right.

We saw transgendered people gain rights in seven locations in Pennsylvania, in the largest county in Illinois, and in large cities like New York, Chicago, Baltimore, Dallas, and San Jose. Trumping each of these was the move on the part of the United Kingdom to join the modern world and allow transsexuals to change their birth certificates and marry members of the sex opposite their chosen one.

In fact, the only major mar on this juggernaut of transgender rights seemed to come during a victory for the rest of the community: New York's Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act. Last-minute efforts to make this bill a transgender-inclusive one failed, but not without a clear showing that the such language is really needed to help make SONDA work for all New Yorkers. Perhaps this points to what we can see in 2003.

There are already other locations that have seen the victories throughout the country and world for transgendered rights, and they, too, are looking at their own wins in the future. Indeed, these successes can easily lead to more victories in the future, as people see that those few brave places that led the way have been in no way weakened by extending rights to their transgender residents.

Perhaps we will see more states take up the challenge in 2003, picking up where the cities and counties have left off. To date, only two states have transgender anti-discrimination laws on the books, but that can change fast. Of course, I would hope to see the attempt to get the Employment Non-Discrimination Act passed at the national level redefined as well, and add transgender protections.

Perhaps, then, 2003 would be the real Year of Trans Liberation. ▼

Gwen Smith resolves to not use the word "trifecta" again in 2003. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

To participate in this year's conference, visit www.zunainstitute.org and download a registration form, or call (510) 482-1671. The Radisson Hotel Los Angeles Westside is located in Culver City, California, and can be reached at 1-800-333-3333; a \$99 per night rate is available to conference participants. ▼

Black Lesbian

◀ page 16

and Training for Action.

The conference is presented by the Oakland-based Zuna Institute, which since its founding in 1999 has sought to address the needs of black lesbians in the areas of



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Vital settlements: What to know

by Clint Liveoak,
ALRP Law Clerk

The following is an occasional column compiled by the AIDS Legal Referral Panel on issues of concern to people living with AIDS.

Dear ALRP: I am a 65-year-old man with advanced AIDS and am considering liquidating my life insurance policy to cover my medical costs and a trip to Holland. I have heard about vital settlements, and I was wondering if that is a wise option to pursue?

— Willie Windmill

Dear Willie:

Vital settlements are lump sums of cash payments given to terminally ill people while they are alive in exchange for the payout of their life insurance policies when they die. For instance, someone with a terminal illness could sell his life insurance policy to a vital settlement company who would then pay him a portion of the face value of the policy. The vital company would continue to pay the premiums on the policy and collect the payoff upon the death of the insured. These agreements became popular during the early years of the AIDS epidemic, and continue to be popular for both AIDS and other terminally ill or elderly patients. While this may sound like a great deal, you should be well informed on how vital settlements work and other available options

before obtaining a vital agreement.

Available options

Managing a terminal illness is both costly and stressful, and often vital agreements give a person the peace of mind of being more financially stable at the end of their life. However, there are a number of other options available to a person with a life insurance policy that should be carefully explored before deciding on a vital agreement. Some life insurance companies provide an accelerated benefits program whereby a person can cash in their policy in advance. These programs offer anywhere from 25 to 100 percent of the death payout as early payment, and often this is a greater amount than one would receive from vital companies, which usually pay 15 to 80 percent of the policy. The percentage paid is determined by the policy amount and the life expectancy of the insured individual. For example, a person expected to live six months is going to get a higher payout than a person expected to live five years. A person facing a terminal illness could also borrow against the cash value of the life insurance policy or obtain a loan with the policy as collateral. If these options are not desirable or available, a vital agreement may be an option for you.

What do I need to know about vital settlements?

Vital agreements are complex and you need to be well informed before entering into these contracts. While each vital company may have different rules, there are some standard policies that apply. First, most vital companies require that you own the policy for two years before you sell it. You may also be asked to demonstrate that you bought the insurance policy before diagnosis of a terminal illness. To determine this, you will probably be required to give consent to have your medical records released to the vital company. Purchasing a life insurance policy and not disclosing or terminal illness ("clean sheeting") or purchasing a life insurance policy with the intention of immediately selling it to a vital company ("wet paper" transactions) is fraudulent and should be avoided. There have been more than 100 arrests for fraudulent vital agreements over the past 20 years, and you need to make sure that what you are doing is legal.

Second, you must have the current beneficiary of your life insurance policy sign a waiver releasing all claims on the death payment. This is something to consider if you have loved ones who are relying on funds from a life insurance policy for support after you die. If you sell

your life insurance policy, the vital company receives all proceeds from the policy upon your death.

Third, you must be terminally ill or elderly. Some vital companies require that you have a life expectancy of less than four years. Since more and more people are living longer with AIDS and HIV, the use of vital settlements for people with HIV has diminished. But vital settlements are expected to continue to play a role in other terminal illnesses, as well as in elderly people who are nearing the end of their lives.

Financial aspects of vital settlements

Vital agreements promise relatively fast access to your life insurance assets. However, there are a few financial matters to consider before entering into a vital agreement. The first rule is that all vital agreements are not the same.

The promise of quick money to the insured person, and the promise of low risk (but high return) investments to the vital companies led people scrambling to purchase these agreements faster than the Dutch scrambled to purchase tulips. This has allowed for a large number of vital companies to flourish, so you can be selective when choosing a company. When looking at vital settlements, you should shop around. Most vital companies offer anywhere from 15 to 80 percent of the total value of the life insurance policy. By comparison shopping, you can find the highest payoff so you can collect the most money from the sale. You can do this yourself or hire a vital broker to shop around, but a broker will charge you for this service or take a portion of the payout amount.

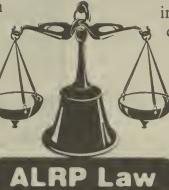
You should also ask how long it takes to receive the payment. Some vital agreements take longer to release your payment than others, so insist that you are paid in a timely manner. It is also good to confirm that the vital company is licensed. Vital companies are required to be licensed in California.

so be sure to check in order to prevent being scammed.

Another thing you need to think about is the tax implications from selling your vital. In 1997, Congress changed the tax code so that vital settlements are federally tax-exempt if your life expectancy is less than two years. However, some states still tax the income resulting from the sale of life insurance policies. Check on whether your state taxes the sale of these policies to avoid being surprised by a hefty bill from the state tax man. Receiving a payment for your life insurance policy can also affect your eligibility for Medicaid, MediCal, or SSI, as the payout is considered income. All of these financial factors should be considered when deciding if a vital agreement is right for you.

Vital agreements are a legitimate option for accessing money in your time of need, but it is essential that you become informed about these agreements before making such an important decision.

Since 1983, ALRP has provided free and low-cost legal services for people with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. ALRP provides direct services and referrals to HIV-sensitive panel attorneys. ALRP can assist you in a variety of matters, including credit and bankruptcy, insurance and employee benefits, wills and powers of attorney, landlord-tenant relations and housing issues, government benefits, employment, confidentiality, and establishing child guardianship. This article is not intended as legal advice for your specific situation. ▼



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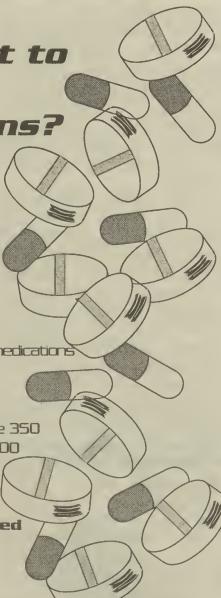
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OBITUARIES

David Smith Fox

June 28, 1952 — December 12, 2002

 Confident in the promise of eternal life, David Smith Fox died suddenly but peacefully on December 12, 2002 in San Francisco. The cause of death was complications from AIDS. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio on June 28, 1952. David is survived by his father, John Milligan Fox of San Diego, his brothers John, Gregory, and James, his sisters Catherine, Mary Squire, Margery, and many family and friends. His mother, Eleanor Smith Fox, and partner Bill Kenkel, predeceased him.

David graduated from Santa Clara University ('74) and from U.C. Hastings College of Law ('78). In 1985 he was the first openly gay lawyer appointed as a Deputy city Attorney by then City Attor-

ney Louise Renne. David retired in 1993. David helped create the National AIDS Memorial Grove. He served as a founding member of the HIV Prevention Point, was a former board member of the SF AIDS Emergency Fund, and was a member and then President of the Board of Pacific News Wire Service. His generosity, love of music and seemingly boundless energy touched hundreds of people.

A Memorial Service for David will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, January 11, 2003 at St. Ignatius Church (on the University of San Francisco campus), 650 Parker Ave. Donations in his name may be made to SF HIV Prevention Point / SF AIDS Foundation, HPP, 995 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94103; or to the National AIDS Memorial Grove, 856 Stanyan St., San Francisco, CA 94117.

Neil "Alex" Fruge'

April 19, 1975 — January 1, 2003

 Alex Fruge' passed away January 1, 2003. Born April 19, 1975 in La Fayette,



Louisiana, he is the eldest son of Philip and Kay Fruge' of Crowley, Louisiana. He spent most of his life in Louisiana before moving to San Francisco. He had lived in Crowley, La Fayette, and New Orleans.

Alex moved to San Francisco in 1999 to further his education. He attended City College in San Francisco. He worked independently, catering, coffee houses, and as a designer. He was an active member of twelve steps; he participated with the Intergeneration Organization, San Francisco.

He was a bright and beautiful person; he had a great big heart for people. He was a creative individual, poet, writer, artist, as well as a great cook. He loved to spend his time working in the garden.

I know he was loved by many; he will surely be missed by his family here

in San Francisco. He is survived by his parents, Philip and Kay Fruge', his two sisters, Leah Fruge' and Charlotte Fruge', and many relatives and friends in Louisiana.

"Alex, I will always be there for you. I love you." — Santiago.

A celebration of his life will be scheduled. For more information, contact Santiago Juan at (415) 585-9491 or (415) 990-7985.

Philip Fay Stevenson

May 20, 1931 — January 1, 2003

Philip Fay Stevenson died Wednesday, January 1, 2003. He was born on May 20, 1931, son of the late Phyllis Fay Smith and Arthur Stevenson. He is survived by his loving partner of 35 years, Bill McCarty, by his half sisters Pamela Stevenson of Alameda and Shanna Smith Straight of Novato, and by numerous relatives.

Phil was proud of his family's heritage of being early arrivals to the United States and to California. He was a long-standing member of both the Society for Colonial Wars and the Society of California Pioneers.

After a successful career in the insurance business, Phil started a second career in the political arena, particularly in the area of the gay and lesbian community, a cause more true to his heart. For over 15 years, Phil served as a working board member of the Bay Area Nonpartisan Alliance to ensure civil liberties for all gay and lesbian Americans. He chaired the political action committee, recommending only the best candidates for public office. He tapped his wealth of friends to contribute their time, money and genius to the cause. His work helped raise more than a million dollars that fostered many gay and lesbian politicians, judges and legislative lobbies that serve the nation today.

Services were held on Tuesday, Janu-

ary 7 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in San Francisco. A reception followed at the Wattis Room at Davies Symphony Hall.

Contributions may be made to the San Francisco AIDS Emergency Fund, 1540 Market St., Suite 320, San Francisco, CA 94102; or to San Francisco Symphony, Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102.

PS., He almost always agreed with Wayne Friday and loved his column.

Bea Tracy

1926 — 2003



 Bea Tracy, an advocate for the HIV/AIDS community, passed away January 2 after a brief illness at John Muir Hospital. She was surrounded by loving family and friends.

Bea began her work with HIV/AIDS activities when she joined the newly formed Shanti Project in 1983. After five years she went on to work as a private consultant and educator with various AIDS organizations throughout the Bay Area. Until about one month ago Bea was working as an HIV-Substance Abuse Liaison for Contra Costa Health Services.

She leaves a daughter, Jane Schade of Michigan, her son-in-law Fred Schade, three granddaughters, three great grandsons, and many loving friends.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to an AIDS organization of your choice.

A memorial celebration of Bea will be held on Saturday, January 11 at Emmanuel Temple, 780 54th St. (at MLK Blvd.), Oakland. For more information, call Stephen Schnell at (510) 533-3970.

Watergarden co-owner Bob Farrar dies at 60

by Cynthia Laird

 Robert T. (Bob) Farrar, the longtime manager and co-owner of the Watergarden bathhouse in San Jose, died December 27, 2002 at his home in San Jose. He was 60 and lost his battle with lymphoma.

Mr. Farrar was born in Kansas City, Missouri, but made San Jose his home since 1972.

David Liebman, a longtime friend, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Mr. Farrar would be deeply missed by employees, customers, and many friends in the South Bay gay community.

"He was quite a figure. There's no way to explain how he was," Liebman said. "He was a jovial kind of guy."

Mr. Farrar was one of the initial investors in the Watergarden, which opened February 4, 1977. Since its opening, the bathhouse has been on the leading edge when it comes to health, Liebman said. That intensified with the advent of the

AIDS epidemic and for years the Watergarden has had a prevention coordinator on staff. Additionally, the establishment offers free, anonymous HIV testing to people even if they don't pay to use the facilities at the bathhouse, Liebman added.

"We've had an AIDS awareness clinic at the Watergarden since the beginning," Liebman said.

Mr. Farrar often greeted customers at the door on the busiest nights.

"So many times, he'd say, 'Shut up and get tested,'" Liebman recalled.

Mr. Farrar was also involved in other community activities. He sponsored riders in the California AIDS Ride and a similar ride in Hawaii, and he participated in many AIDS Walk events. Additionally, he helped with the AIDS Memorial Grove at the Children's

Discovery Museum in San Jose and planted roses in the Heritage Rose Garden at Guadalupe River Park.

In his 2002 book on the South Bay's gay and lesbian community, *From Closet to Community*, author Ted Sahl noted that the Watergarden has "always been a

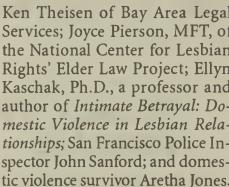
strong force in the political arena, protecting the gay community by donating thousands of dollars to fight anti-gay initiatives."

Mr. Farrar is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Mary Farrar; and aunts Mamie Scantlin, Maggie Farrar, and Ann Farrar. He is also survived by five nieces and nephews and 14 great-nieces and great-nephews.

A memorial is scheduled for this Sunday, January 12, at 1 p.m. at the Chapel of the Roses, Oak Hill Memorial Park, 300 Curtner Avenue, in San Jose. ▶

Lesbian domestic violence panel Sunday

by Zak Szymanski

 Domestic violence is already a hidden problem within the lesbian community. But the topic can be even more taboo for older lesbians, who often must overcome increased homophobia in social services and generational differences in attitudes to both recognize and seek help for abusive patterns.

To address the needs of older lesbians, and to reach dykes from other age groups as well, a panel discussion will be sponsored by New Leaf Outreach to Elders and Old Lesbians Organizing for Change this Sunday, January 12, from 3:30 p.m. at 145 Guerrero Street in San Francisco.

The panel will open with a presentation by Val Scott, MSCP, from W.O.M.A.N. Inc., a local nonresidential service for battered women. Panel participants include a representative from Community United Against Violence, who will discuss LGBT domestic violence as well as issues and myths around sadomasochism; Noami Tucker of Shalom Bayot; Khushbu Srivastava, a certified domestic violence counselor from Queer Asian Women Services;

Ken Theisen of Bay Area Legal Services; Joyce Pierson, MFT, of the National Center for Lesbian Rights' Elder Law Project; Ellyn Kaschak, Ph.D., a professor and author of *Intimate Betrayal: Domestic Violence in Lesbian Relationships*; San Francisco Police Inspector John Sanford; and domestic violence survivor Aretha Jones.

In addition to discussion and presentations, Arisika Razak and Sybil Meyers of the Purple Moon Dance Project are scheduled to

perform.

"Domestic violence is pervasive

throughout our society regardless of culture or gender," said Jan Couvillon, panel organizer. "This panel was formed in order to provide a place for people to find out about the services available."

Part of New Leaf's "Second Sunday" events for elders, normally open to participants 60 years old and above, this weekend's event is open to all age groups. ▶

Party to celebrate Donald Montwill's life Sun.

 A party to celebrate the life of Donald Montwill will be held this Sunday, January 12 at El Rio, 3158 Mission Street at Cesar Chavez, beginning at 3 p.m.

Mr. Montwill died October 25, 2002 of complications from AIDS dementia. He was 48.

Mr. Montwill was the creative genius behind the acclaimed groundbreaking queer clubs, the Valencia Rose and Josie's Cabaret. Mr. Montwill's boyfriend, longtime AIDS activist Tom Calvanese, and other artists, activists, drinkers, smokers, and hellraisers who were touched by Mr. Montwill's charm, sharp wit, absurd sense of humor, and intense presence will join to remember this San Francisco icon. ▶

— Cynthia Laird

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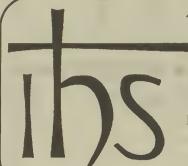
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Soccer to me

by Jim Provenzano

After an eight-year hiatus from competing in Gay Games, the San Francisco Spikes made up for lost time by sending two teams. Another Bay Area women's team also played soccer in Sydney.

It's certainly not that the Spikes haven't been playing strong all year, or for the years since their last Games. Gay World Cup tournaments took precedence during New York and Amsterdam's

events. But last November two squads of Spikes kicked it up in Sydney. The new women's Olivia team got a bronze medal.

The competitive-level Spikes Plum coach, Patrick Johnston, said that 26 men competed in soccer from Bay Area squads. His team placed fourth, narrowly defeated by a questionable call in one match.

"We started splendidly, beating Munich 3-0," said Johnston. They then lost to Los Angeles 1-0, "our longtime nemesis who always plays us tough." The Spikes played hard and only lost that goal via a penalty kick.

Playing against San Diego later that day, they earned a 3-1 win, then a 2-2 tie with Cologne. The next day they got a double dose of Brits, with the Spikes winning 1-0 over the novice-filled London Lambda. A more experienced London Lions defeated the Spikes 4-0.

During the mid-week matches, Johnston said, "Both teams took the opportunity to rest key players, coyly feeling each other out for a possible future meeting later

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Goal gals: Olivia Scores women's soccer team.

Sydney, but hundreds play regularly in the Bay Area each week.

"Sydney was excellent," said Griggs. "Being able to play with teams from different styles, from around the world, and meeting people as interested in soccer; it was great."

Sp's team played two Aussie squads, and others from New Zealand, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. San Francisco's Olivia Team took the bronze in competitive women's level, the third best out of 28 teams.

"It was also our first tournament as a team," added Griggs with pride.

But that newly formed team brought years of experience. The Golden Gate League has been around since the 1970s, and now includes 48 teams. And it's still growing.

"We're looking to expand to an over-40 division to get more interest there," Griggs said.

Agés of players at the Games ranged from 20-somethings to 50 and up. Sydney, British, and U.S. teams took the top four slots.

The Amherst Aztecs from U.K. took gold, and New York Rising won silver. Olivia Scores played the London Lionesses for the bronze, and won by two points.

Post-victory celebrations were a family affair. Griggs traveled with her mom to Perth, while other teammates visited Melbourne and Tasmania.

Now that they're back, they'll be kicking it up on the Peninsula's playing fields. "There are lots of soccer opportunities here for women," Griggs said.

Forty-eight teams in the GGWSL, divided into eight divisions, play at Golden Gate Park's Polo Fields and Beach Chalet, Marin's Indian Valley College, at Cal State University, Hayward, and in Oakland.

Two seasons a year run from September to November, and March to June. There is an over-35 women's indoor group, but most play outdoor, full-field soccer.

Local soccer fans have for years enjoyed the classic Festival of Babes each Labor Day weekend.

The Web site, www.ggws.com, includes links to leagues in the area in San Francisco, Palo Alto, and Marin. For more info, call (650)756-5930.

Blue man group

David Jessup, who coached and played for the rec Blue Spikes team, has been paying with the Spikes since 1985.

The Spikes Blue team was made up of players who used to play with the Spikes. They placed eighth in their division. Jessup talked about the idea of forming a second team after the competitive squad's slots became limited.

"I thought about using the people we had who used to play," he said. "Of the over two dozen guys he contacted, 'A lot of people were excited about the idea.'

With three months to go, he rounded up six veteran Spikes who had participated in tournaments, some as far back as 1982.

In his mid-40s, Jessup said of his mature teammates, "They're still talented, just not as fast. We had a great combination of veterans and new players."

One of their veteran players, Toby Rappolt, owns Sunset Soccer Shop. One of a few straight Spikes, he had coached the Spikes for years, along with his wife Libby, who played on the women's squad.

Recovering from a knee injury, next page ▶

OD deaths

◀ page 1

homeless.

San Francisco Medical Examiner Dr. Boyd Stephens told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Fruge and Araujo are suspected of dying by heroin overdoses. Friends said the men had a history of using heroin and other drugs. The toxicology tests that will determine a cause of death usually take more than a month to complete. Stephens said that although heroin deaths were up last year in San Francisco, he didn't notice any surge of cases recently.

A pharmacist with the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic, Greg Hayner, said that although he hasn't noticed a spike in cases, it's not uncommon for people who buy their drugs from the same dealer to get into trouble by using a batch of heroin or other IV drugs that is much stronger than the concentration they may be used to.

Reminder of problem

For friends of the two men who died last week, the deaths are a reminder of the drug problem that continues to plague the gay community. Cusick noted that Fruge was close to getting some intensive help for his drug problem. Ironically, he had been accepted into a recovery house on the same day that he was found dead, Cusick said.

Araujo's body was found by an assistant manager of the club who noticed him about noon but assumed he was sleeping. He called 911 after the man didn't respond to his efforts to rouse him.

One of Araujo's friends and his former Alcoholic Anonymous sponsor, Robert Felkins, coincidentally was nearby when Araujo was found dead. Felkins told the B.A.R. that when he saw his friend's trademark boots and flight jacket, he knew immediately who it was. When the body was turned over, Felkins identified him to police and paramedics.

"He was a nice, sweet, super guy," said Felkins, who added that his friend struggled with substance abuse and behavioral problems for years. Felkins said Araujo's mother died of a drug overdose when he was a teenager and that Araujo didn't feel accepted by his family after his father remarried, prompting him to move to the Bay Area from Sacramento at least six years ago. Although Araujo eventually got into treatment programs in the Bay Area, it was too little and too late to reverse his downward cycle, Felkins said. Araujo wasn't working, was on Social Security disability, and was homeless at the time of his death, according to Felkins.

Araujo was a prominent member of the Radical Faeries. A memorial service will be held on January 19 at the Faerie house on

14th Street. Details will be listed in his obituary in next week's B.A.R.

Like Araujo, friends say that Fruge struggled with substance abuse and "mental health issues."

"He was the love of my life and no one can take that away," said Fruge's close friend, Santiago Juan. "He's in a good place now."

Juan remembers Fruge for being very bright and having "a really good heart." Fruge held several jobs in the past, and at the time of his death supported himself through freelance work by catering, doing design work, and making floral arrangements, Juan said.

Fruge is from Crowley, Louisiana, about 128 miles from New Orleans, Juan said, adding that Fruge's family took his body there for burial.

Juan first became worried about Fruge on New Year's Eve after he didn't answer his phone at the Vincent Hotel on Turk Street. Juan said Fruge sounded "out of it" the night before. He said he was unable to convince anyone at the hotel to check on his well-being. Finally, when he called the hotel on Thursday, January 2, he was given the news that Fruge was found dead and had probably died on New Year's Day. ▼

A memorial service is being planned for Fruge. For more information see the B.A.R.'s obituary section.

Helms party

◀ page 4

gay-themed social events into the serious-feeling mix of classes and workshops that have dominated its programming since it opened last March. This party is the first of a series of events to be held on the third Thursday of each month.

"Whoever thought of the idea of the Helms party should get a \$100,000 raise," said Kate Kendell, executive director of the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights. "There are few senators we are so happy to say good riddance to. Helms was opposed to all social justice issues, not just issues affecting queers."

"Helms fashioned himself as such a visible lightning rod, opposed to every progressive ideal, that his prominence for evil really knows no peer. There are still a bunch of bad apples, but the queen of the prom is out of there."

It wasn't so much what Helms did as what he said that made him stand up, a head taller than other legislators who muttered their distaste for gays and lesbians behind closed doors and worked against LGBT causes quietly, by simply refusing to vote for pro-gay legislation.

Helms stood up and shouted. He said in an interview, "A lot of people were afraid to acknowledge that they were conservative. And if I did anything, it was taking the apprehension out of it and letting them be what they wanted to be."

But this week, in an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, openly gay Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank (D), said that he wasn't so sure that even with Helms gone, LGBT-favorable legislation had much of a chance in this Congress.

"It could help some," Frank said. "Helms would raise issues that, once raised, most of the Republicans felt they had to go along with. He's a vicious man and we're

well rid of him."

"If Helms had stayed on, a gay and transgender inclusive hate crimes bill would have been impossible. Helms was a lightning rod. He would have raised hell. Helms would have stirred up the right wing more."

But asked if he thinks there's a reason to be having parties, Frank wasn't so sure.

"Sure, there's a cause for celebration," Frank said. "There'll be an aesthetic improvement to be sure. But he wasn't the major obstacle. There isn't a lot of substantive difference between him and the Bush administration on policy issues. Helms's record and John McCain's voting records are pretty similar. The rhetoric is different, but the voting record is pretty much the same." ▼

For more information, call (415) 865-5555 or visit www.sfcenter.org.

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

Jessup volunteered to play goalie, a decision which he said "had mixed results."

"We finished eighth out of 14 teams. We did pretty well, considering we were combining groups of players who hadn't been on the field for months, or years."

Like others, Jessup is overcoming some injuries, but already planning for the upcoming season. They're hoping to improve more in Boston, at the August 2003 International Gay Soccer League Championships.

When asked if June 2002's World Cup added more interest in soccer in the U.S. after their rise to fourth place, Jessup agreed.

As to the homosocial rituals of trading jerseys, kissing on field, and other joviality known to European and gay teams, he wasn't sure about that perception extending to all soccer teams.

"There is a general feeling of goodwill and sportsmanship," he said. "But the games do get rough. People do lose their temper, or get

angry about a foul."

Goal minors

They also have to deal with questionable officiating, as happened at the Spikes final match, the battle for bronze with the team from Cologne, Germany.

A few minutes into overtime, the referee made what coach Johnston called "a bizarre call," claiming that the Spikes' goalie handled the ball outside of the goalie box as he was punting the ball downfield. This gave Cologne a free goal kick, which cost the Spikes the bronze.

"It was disheartening to lose a second straight game that we had controlled throughout, but we were proud to once again finish as the best American team for the fourth time in a row," said Johnston.

And as soccer fans know, that's what makes matches so exciting; swift action, quick change-overs, and last-minute scores.

So, kick your balls around the gym with the Spikes, January 28, February 11, 18, and 25 and possibly March 11, 18, and 25 – all Tuesday evenings – from 7:30 until 9:30.

Said Johnston, "Winter is a great time for new players to come and see what we are about because it is right in the Castro, and our indoor format is particularly social."

For more information on the Spikes, visit: www.geocities.com/socialspike/ or call Johnston at (415) 642-5819.

For Gay Games VI scores and other stuff, visit www.Sydney2002.org.au. Other Games and GLBT sports stuff resides at www.sportscomplex.org.

Make a racket

A winter racquetball league open to LGBT players is starting on January 15. The league will play at a club in South San Francisco where membership is not mandatory. Play is on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. for 10 weeks. All levels of players are welcome. Info: Racquetball2006@aol.com, or call (415) 641-5211.

Funny car

This Saturday, January 11, four-time NASCAR Winston Cup champion Jeff Gordon will venture into uncharted waters as host of NBC's *Saturday Night Live*.

NYE at Trannyshack

Rick Gerharter

Johnny Kat," left, and the Baby New Year ("Precious Moments") greet the new year with screams, champagne, song, and confetti at Trannyshack's New Year's Eve party at the Stud bar. An overflow crowd included Assemblyman Mark Leno, San Francisco Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas, and Hedwig star Kevin Cahoon.

Adachi

◀ page 2

en Gate University Law School; attorney Teresa Caffese, whom Adachi later named as his chief attorney; and attorney Tony Serra, who gave a giddy yet inspiring speech that proclaimed, "We have elected an idealist – aren't we lucky?"

When Adachi himself took the podium, he recalled the evolution of public defenders in America, noting how one man by the name of Gideon fought for his right to representation and changed the course of legal history; accused of a felony in Florida and denied a state-appointed attorney, Gideon appealed his case until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor, sparking offices of public defenders nationwide. Forty years after Gideon's victory, the system still has a long way to go, said Adachi, who pointed to the infamous "sleeping lawyer case," where a gay man in Texas was sentenced to

death while his court-appointed lawyer slept through the trial.

Adachi also noted that both his and his wife's family members were interned as Japanese Americans during World War II, and how his mission today would include vigilant defense of Arab Americans who find themselves in similar positions.

"In a very real way," Adachi remarked, "we have declared war on our own civil and constitutional rights."

Adachi also pledged to reduced the workload for San Francisco's overworked public defenders, who at any one time may be responsible for more than 100 cases.

"I know times are hard," said Adachi of the economic downturn. "But we can't cut back on justice."

Other goals include addressing rehabilitation at the juvenile level, providing adequate interpretive services for non-English speaking defendants, and raising the standards of the office to surpass expectations and usher in "a new era of justice in San Francisco." ▼

Gay Democrats

◀ page 14

NSD PAC, the organization's newly-created federal political action committee. In addition, the Stonewall Democrats are recruiting a new candidate for executive director.

"Chad has done an excellent job with NSD, and his leadership means that it will take at least two people to manage these responsibilities in the future," said Rick Trombly, a New Hampshire resident who is co-chair of the group's board. "In just one year, Chad has established an outstanding presence for NSD in Washington, and we're hoping the new executive director will continue to enhance our grassroots efforts to support Chad's strengths at the federal level."

Johnson assumed the new positions this month as the 108th Congress convened. Over the last

year, the Stonewall Democrats has seen its federal advocacy role dramatically increase in conjunction with, and at the request of Democratic congressional offices and the Democratic National Committee. As Stonewall's federal political director and NSD PAC managing director, Johnson will concentrate his efforts on advocating federal policies on behalf of LGBT Democrats and supporting gay-positive Democrats running for federal office.

"Chad has successfully moved NSD to the next level since joining the Stonewall team, and we're glad he will continue to spearhead the continued growth of our federal political efforts," said Julian Potter, a Washington D.C. resident and board co-chair. "Thanks to his work, our organization now has a federal PAC, a 501(c)(3) organization in formation, and a well-respected national voice for LGBT Democrats." ▼

but I don't know what to expect. It will probably be a lot like The Winston – 90 minutes of controlled chaos."

And a lot of snickering skits and jokes about divorce, videotapes, hunky pit crews, and Rainbow Warriors. Must-see TV! ▼

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0262923-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1. I-level, 2.1-level communications, 3. I-level creative, 4. I-level pictures 4714 25th Street San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jeff Jorillo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 05, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/11/2002.

DEC. 19, 26 JAN. 2, 9, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263002-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kim Huon Banh Mi, 325 Leavenworth Street San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Nhuhoa Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 29, 1994. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/16/2002.

DEC. 19, 26 JAN. 2, 9, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0262887

The following person(s) are doing business as: Blip, 2128 Grove Street San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jeff F. Southard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/09/2002.

DEC. 19, 26 JAN. 2, 9, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263178-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bearsoft, Normalgay.com, Averagegay.com, 156 Shawne Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed William J. Sanderson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/23/2002.

JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-02-540507

In the Matter of the Application of Jennifer Ann Fox. For change of Name. The application of Jennifer Ann Fox for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jennifer Ann Fox has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jennifer Ann Judson Fox. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of January, 2003 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 19, 26 JAN. 2, 9, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-02-540506

In the Matter of the Application of Erin Kaye Judson. For change of Name. The application of Erin Kaye Judson for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Erin Kaye Judson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Erin Kaye Judson Fox. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of January, 2003 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 19, 26 JAN. 2, 9, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263072-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Direct High Speed Wireless, 2080 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joey Kollin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/18/2002.

DEC. 26, JAN. 2, 9, 16, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263035-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Unplugged Internet, 2080 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joey Kollin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA.

The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/16/2002.

DEC. 26, JAN. 2, 9, 16, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263063-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fog City Cab, 999 Pennsylvania #A, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Sunny Tam. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/16/2002.

DEC. 26, JAN. 2, 9, 16, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263218-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Blueline Group, The Blueline Group, 66 Marston Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Valkiria Meinholt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/17/2002.

JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263217-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: BigMuscleMedia, BigMuscle, BigMuscleBear, 156 Shawnee Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Andrew J. Wysocki. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/20/2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/20/2002.

JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263147-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: BigMuscleMedia, BigMuscle, BigMuscleBear, 156 Shawnee Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Andrew J. Wysocki. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/20/2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/20/2002.

JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-02-540547

In the Matter of the Application of Monica Betty Kuan For change of Name. The application of Monica Betty Kuan for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Monica Betty Kuan has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Monica Betty Kuan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 18th day of February at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263278-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tangent Records, 743 Wisconsin Street #Y, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Anna K. Karney. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/6/2000. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/20/2002.

JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-02-540546

In the Matter of the Application of Rhonda J. Eckley For change of Name. The application of Rhonda J. Eckley for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Rhonda J. Eckley has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Lovetta Martinez. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of February at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0263126-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: ECGIT.COM, 1534 46th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wai-Lok Hung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/20/2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/20/2002.

JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME, FILE NO: 244007

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Tangent Records, Located at: 743 Wisconsin Street #Y, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business was conducted by an individual signed Anna K. Karney. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the City of San Francisco on: October 6, 2000.

JANUARY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0262968-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Power Up Cafe, 1001 Brannan Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Jeffrey P. Cooper-Smith. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/12/2002.

JANUARY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540010

In the Matter of the Application of William Stuart Flucas, For change of Name. The application of William Stuart Flucas for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that William Stuart Flucas has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Stuart Brown. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of February at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JANUARY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

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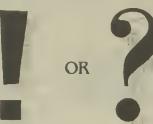
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Women violinists in grand tradition
Anne-Sophie Mutter and Viktoria Mullova
tackle Beethoven, Mozart violin concertos.
page 33

Goode enough for us
Director Joe Goode on his
new play, 'Body Familiar.'
page 31



Double your pleasure
Julianne Moore on
playing two great roles.
page 34



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 33 • No. 2 • 9 January 2003

BAY AREA REPORTER

THE GERMAN WAY

'BERLIN AND BEYOND' FILM FEST PLAYS THE CASTRO

by Gary Morris



A scene from
Doris Dörrie's
Nackt
(*Naked*)

As 2003 begins, it's clear that American movies have more or less overtaken most of the world's regional cinemas (always excepting hold-outs like India's Bollywood). But there are other pockets of resistance. Pockets is the word—in Germany, for example, an estimated 90% of the films

shown are American. The Goethe Institute's annual *Berlin and Beyond* festival culls from that 10% of German, Swiss, and Austrian films that have managed to withstand the American onslaught. It plays the Castro Theatre January 9-15.

Based on a sampling of five works, this year's crop

(23 features, docs and "long shorts") maintains the high standard of previous fests. Stanislaw Mucha's *Absolut Warhol* is a very funny look at the impoverished Eastern European relatives of the real King of Pop. Mucha surveys the local Andy Warhol Museum, which stocks

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THE ACTOR HAS TWO FACES

CRAIG CHESTER PENS CANDID MEMOIR

by Jay Blotcher



Most actors suck the energy from a room just by entering it. They play a nimble game of demanding your adulation while also keeping you at arm's length. Come close and pay tribute, they coo—but not that close. After all, I am a star!

Actor Craig Chester is not that kind of person. Certainly, Chester—the star of '90s gay film chestnuts *Swoon*, *Frisk*, *Kiss Me Guido* and *Grief*—openly craves your attention. But he'll also return the favor, by taking genuine interest in you (and, admittedly, in what you think about him). The combination is endearing. When was the last time you heard an actor preface a sentence by apologizing, "Watch out; I'm going to be dropping some names here," before doing just that: telling firsthand tales about Martin Scorsese, Parker Posey or Ileana

Douglas?

Why the Long Face? The Adventures of a Truly Independent Actor (St. Martin's Press) is very much like a face-to-face conversation with Chester himself. It's wildly candid, shamelessly ingratiating, and utterly likable.

On a rainy afternoon in Manhattan, Chester is dipping into a cup of soup at a cafe near his apartment. His angular, pleasing features and megawatt smile morph into a wince. He has one overriding fear: that *Why the Long Face?* will make him look like "an Anne Heche clone who belonged on *Jerry Springer*." His fears are unfounded.

Chester had been writing a wry column for the gay magazine *Instinct* when the offer came for his first book.

"They wanted me to write about being out in Hollywood, but I told them I had other stories." The centerpiece of the book, which will

page 32 ►

The buzz about Baez

Joan to join Reno for a Castro affair

by Roberto Friedman

Now that the hell-a-daze are over, Out There is discarding the gay apparel and getting down to business. We notice that the normally frivolous event-whore **Marc Huestis**, who has brought the likes of **Christina Crawford** and **Sandra Dee** to the hallowed halls of the Castro Theatre, will be presenting something a bit more serious, February 7 at the Castro: **Joan Baez & Reno, Together at Last!** A strange choice for the Hostess?

"Well, these are strange times," admits Huestis. "With the upcoming war, it's important for questioning souls to come together — not literally! Reno and I go way back. In 1977, I produced a show called *Strange Fruit*, which was Reno's stage debut in San Fran. The show was queer before queer was queer. We've always wanted to work together since, I just didn't think it would take 25 years!"

But Baez is not one of the



Joan Baez: Best skin in the biz

usual Hollywood icons Huestis disinters, is she?

"To me, Joan Baez is as much of an icon as **Joan Crawford**," the ho 'Stess counters. "And, after **Catherine Deneuve**, she has the best skin in show business!"

Baez and Reno will combine their talents in a performance piece culled from today's scary

headlines, created just for the event. Capping the bill will be a sneak preview of the spanking new video of off-Broadway hit *Reno: Rebel Without a Pause*. Appropriately enough, partial proceeds will benefit the ACLU Foundation. Attend a political assembly while we still have the right. Call (415) 863-0611 or e-mail hostess2@earthlink.net, say Out There sent ya, and get \$5 off the ticket price! Who's your sugar daddy?

Beasts and beauties

Every single beast of the 25 **Rhinos** that have been on display lately in shop windows and public spaces will go to the highest bidder in an art auction benefiting Theatre Rhinoceros, slated for Tuesday, Jan. 21 at the SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. The queer and kinky fauna were created by community artists, activists, politicos and performers. Though Out There has a soft spot for many of the rhinos, including **Rita Marhino** by **Dan Pillers** and the **Hippie-Dippie-Gender-Bender-Art-Fag Rhino** by **Gay and Lesbian Artists' Alliance**, our favorite has got to be **Carole-Rhino-Migden**, which our elected official **Carole Migden** fashioned to closely resemble herself. You don't see that going on down Mississippi way. 6:30 p.m. Rhino viewing, 7:30 p.m. Auction. Surf over to www.therhino.org to learn more.



Out There

Oakland Raider Marcus Williams test-drives tight end Deion Branch.

Craig Lee / The Chronicle

Fight for the tight

A teaser-box on the front page of last Saturday's *Chron* Sports section alerted us to the existence of yet another national emergency: "Tight ends become an endangered species." It's in the context of some injuries to the Oakland Raiders, who, we learn from the article inside, may be forced to rely on a "first-year tight end" in the playoffs. Tight ends have been a rarity in the Castro for years, but now the problem seems to be spreading! The photo which went with the story, of Raider Marcus Williams with his hand placed securely on the plump hindquarters of New England's **Deion Branch**, could not be more appropriate.

Left hooky

"Two Cents" is the *Chron* column in which ordinary Joes who believe they don't get enough media exposure give their heartfelt answers to vapid questions. Last week the inquiry was, "What's the best excuse you've used to play hooky?" One of the respondents was none other than the SF Opera's designated **Flower-Hurler**, who doubles as a public servant in the Muni! Quoth the Weed-Chucker: "I've never had to give a reason when I've called in sick. But I did once call in sick from my hotel room in London." Now we know why the Muni runs on time.

Adventures in dentures

We're definitely down with the grass-roots movement afoot to start up a new club for aging hipsters called **Grannyshack**. Considering how advanced in age most of the tragically hip people we know are getting, the club will have to make walkers and night nurses available. But we're already naming the popular drinks: Gin 'n' Geritol, Rum 'n' Metamucil, Vodka 'n' Viagra.

Well, everyone can have a se-

nior moment. Due to a production error, the final four paragraphs of **Tim Pfaff's** music column were omitted from last week's issue. They are:

"I cut my teeth on the **Schubert** of **Wilhelm Kempff**, the first pianist to have recorded the sonatas complete (in every sense of the word). As I listened to those still luminous performances, I wondered how anyone could do better with either sonata. I'll always love the Kempff, but **Mitsuko Uchida** has done it again. Kempff goes back on the shelf.

"It tells half the story to say that listening to her play Schubert is like looking at a great, much-loved painting after it has been lovingly restored. The wealth of new detail serves only to heighten the impact of the whole, holding rather than distracting one's attention. To say that in musical terms, it's the combined touch and articulation of Uchida's playing that give such precise shape, true color and proper plasticity to Schubert's phrases and particular musical gestures.

"But the more interesting side of the story is Uchida's singular way of insinuating her searching sensibility into the composer's own so completely that the music seems to issue from the most interior of places — if not **Plato's** cave, its suburbs — while virtually erasing all traces of her own presence. Once you hear Uchida's Schubert, it's hard to see how the other pianists so blatantly overlooked what was so obviously there all along.

"The A-Major has never sounded so, well, major. It glistens like no other, but beware: emotionally, it has a scorpion's tail. Like the Impromptus and Moments Musicaux that have gone before them, the non-sonata inhabitants of this CD, the two remarkable sets of **German Dances**, attain new status by association. The beer hall is never far away from these pieces, but neither is **Berg's** *Wozzeck*. As Uchida plays them, they're worthy to stand beside the **Beethoven** Bagatelles — and not stand idly by, either, but dance, dammit, dance!" ▼

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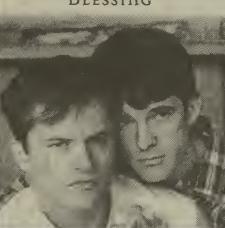


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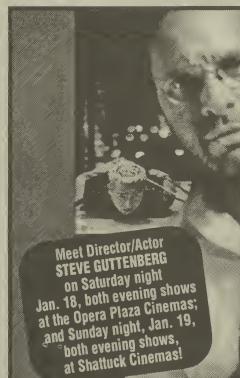
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Ghosts in the machine

Joe Goode on 'Body Familiar' at the Magic

by Richard Dodds

Joe Goode is mightily tired of the question his work inevitably provokes: Is it theater or is it dance?

"I don't care if you call it dog shit, as long as it triggers something in the audience," said Goode, who founded the Joe Goode Performance Group in San Francisco 17 years ago. "I have no investment in any label."

But he does concede that his latest project, *Body Familiar*, at the Magic Theatre, is much more traditionally theatrical than what he usually presents at his home base in Yerba Buena Gardens. "It really is a play," he said. "It has only a few moments that might be recognized as dance, but there is a lot of movement — exaggerated movements — that come from the ghosts in the piece."

These ghosts, Goode said, are the people in our lives who leave such a deep imprint that our actions are invariably informed by them. "I know that there are people in my past who guide me all the time," he said. "Sometimes I feel I can't function well because of what others took from me."

Each of the six characters in *Body Familiar* has a particular ghost who is affecting his or her life. "I'm sure I can trace them all to myself," Goode said of his characters. "The character of the artist is obvious. The thing that put him on a precipice is something I can relate to."

For Leonard, the visual artist at the center of the play, that precipice is in the form of a past hustler boyfriend whose memory he can't shake. Is that piece of the play autobiographical? "We're not going there. We're definitely not going there," Goode replied, good-naturedly, it seemed. "Let's just say I've had an array of boyfriends."

Liam Vincent, who is playing Leonard, is one of three dramatic actors in the cast who are

joined by three dancers from Goode's company. The other characters include an Auntie Mame-type socialite and her bull-in-a-china-shop millionaire husband, plus their respective ghosts.

"I chose three of my dancers who have done the most [speaking] in my productions," Goode said. "There was a question if they could do this, and I wrote it in a way to reduce that, but it turned out not to be necessary."

Those dancers are part of a permanent company that has let the Joe Goode Performance Group develop a shared aesthetic that is not often possible when dancers are hired on a show-by-show basis. Goode knows that now he is surrounded by kindred spirits, which has not always been the case. He was an unhappy gay kid growing up in Virginia, and his early career in New York was not a source of much satisfaction.

There was his "failed career" as a Broadway dancer that found Goode in several musicals that closed out of town. "I got a lot of work as a dancer because I was tall and could count to eight," he said. "A lot of it was crap, children's shows and bus-and-truck tours that I was not the least bit interested in. They were just a way to make some money."

When he tried to create his own work, he didn't have the confidence yet to put his eclectic vision on the stage. "I made some god-awful work in New York," he said. "I was too influenced and intimidated by the *New York Times*. When I got to San Francisco, I didn't care about the local critics."

Dancing to a different drummer does have its challenging moments. "When I was younger, I moaned the fact that I had no mentor. Now I'm happy about that. I have a voice that is unique and that informs my work. So it's worked out well for me."

For tickets and more info on the Magic's production, call 441-8822.

Forget-me-not

The multi-talented John Fisher can now claim quadruple-threat status. He is the author and director of *Amnesia*, beginning performances Jan. 16 at Theatre Rhine. Plus he is a performer in his play. Plus he recently became co-artistic director of Theatre Rhine.

In the new play, Fisher puts forth an interesting question: Is sexual orientation erased along with all other memories in an amnesia victim? In *Amnesia*, the victim is a World War II soldier who sets out on a quest, from army hospital to Broadway, to solve the mystery of his libido.

Fisher is best known as the author and director of *Medea: The Musical*, and his other credits include *Combat!*, *The Joy of Gay Sex*, and *Barebacking: A Sex Panic! Comedy*. Fisher and Doug Holsclaw currently share the artistic reins at Rhine, and Fisher will become the sole artistic director at the end of the current season.

For more info on *Amnesia*, call 861-5079.

'Thief' of hearts

"We're born alone, we die alone, and every moment of our lives is a chance *not* to be alone," says a character in *Thief River*, a play about a frustrated love affair that haunts two men for decades. Lee Blessing's play, seen in New York in 2001, is now making its West Coast debut at New Conservatory Theatre Center.

Blessing, a rare heterosexual playwright in NCTC's Pride se-



Choreographer/director Joe Goode is surrounded by kindred spirits.

ries, achieved his highest profile with the Cold War-drama *A Walk in the Woods*. In *Thief River*, he examines the radically different roads taken by two boyhood friends — and secret lovers — growing up in Minnesota in the 1940s.

One of the pair stays behind in *Thief River*, submerging his true sexuality in marriage and parenthood, while the other moves to the big city, where a succession of lovers can't erase the memory of that first love. The play reunites the men in 1973 and 2001 in scenes that overlap and interweave, as different actors play the men at various ages.

Ed Decker, New Conservatory's artistic director, is staging *Thief River*. Call 861-8972.

Short scenes

• Marin Theatre Company continues its romance with un-

sung Tennessee Williams plays, this time with the "professional world premiere" of *Fugitive Kind*. Set in a transient St. Louis hotel, and populated with an array of misfits, the 1937 play is completely different from the film of the same name, which was actually based on Williams' *Orpheus Descending*. Call 388-5208 for tickets.

• New Conservatory Theatre Center opens its fourth In Concert series on Jan. 18 with *Closer Than Ever*, a 1989 revue that pulled together songs by Richard Maltby Jr. and David Shire. Call 861-8972.

• Carey Perloff, ACT's artistic director, looks at the life of adventurer, financier, philanthropist, and repressed homosexual Cecil Rhodes in *The Colossus of Rhodes*, opening Jan. 12 at the Zeum Theater in Yerba Buena Gardens. The play, a mix of history and vaudeville-style musical numbers, is set against the backdrop of the South African diamond empire, and acknowledges Rhodes' lifelong passion for another man. Call 749-2228.

• There was a major oversight in the 2002 theatrical wrap-up of two weeks ago. Adam Bock's play *Five Flights*, and Encore Theatre's production of it, certainly belonged at the top of the list of new plays that debuted in San Francisco. My apologies. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.



The cast of *Amnesia*, written & directed by John Fisher, coming to Rhine.

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Time's a-wasting

Spike Lee's '25th Hour' races the clock

by David Lamble

The latest Spike Lee Joint begins inauspiciously with a stupid pet joke. Monty Brogan (Edward Norton) is pleading with a 300-lb. Ukrainian drug-dealer to help him put a badly injured pitbull out of its misery. As we have learned from this season of *The Sopranos*, nothing (except crossdressing or shooting heroin between your toes) does as much harm to the psyche of your average hoodlum as a sudden sentimental attachment to a pet.

In the heyday of film noir, the story of a tough guy racing a ticking clock to death or a fate worse than death would unfold at a breathless pace. *25 Hours* (Ben Stiller adapts his own novel) moves with an oddly slow gait through the perils of Monty (Mom had a crush on Monty Clift, a bad sign), a working-class Irish-American with a mug too cute for his own good. Busted with a big stash of H and cash in the flat he shares with his Puerto

Rican girlfriend, Rosario Dawson (Monty's girlfriend and best buddy (one of whom may be the narc) before having his Staten Island pub-owning pal (Brian Cox in a role so barnacled with clichés that a lesser actor would have busted his back picking up the script pages) drive him to the Big House.

25 Hours is not so much a movie as a best-of album, bits from the better movies from which Lee gleaned his cast. Philip Seymour Hoffman is Monty's sad sack of a high school English teacher (afflicted with a creepy sexual addiction, as in the superior *Happiness*) who's doomed to lose the girl and get the dog. Norton, who took better to prison

time in *American History X*, sourly reprises the spirit of Lee's great trash-talking rants from *The Right Thing*. Cox, a deliciously warped "Mick" in *LIIE*, ends the film on a mushy Irish pipe-dream that would embarrass even the Brothers McMullen.

While Lee hasn't been formally charged with anti-gay bias since a small bout of dyke-bashing in his first feature, *She's Gotta Have It*, he has been known to loiter suspiciously around the 'hood. With its preoccupation with male-on-male anal rape in prison and blowjob oaths by uptight straight guys, *25 Hours* is big-screen homophobia without homosexuals. ▶

Opens Friday.



Edward Norton is Monty Brogan, in his last hours of freedom before jail.

Craig Chester

◀ Arts cover

shock fans of Chester's sleepy sexiness, is a congenital condition that deformed his face during adolescence. Chester underwent several drastic procedures to reverse the process. The retelling is harrowing, but never begs pity. While most actors have a narcissism born of mere insecurity, Chester's concern with his physical appearance emanates from a dark place few actors have been.

Tracing his childhood from California's San Gabriel Valley to Carrollton, Texas, a Dallas suburb, Chester mines the black humor of his life. He grew up in a born-again Christian family, and eventually learned that his love of performing would not be sated at Bible Camp. Vivid depictions of his religious fanatic of a Mom and a chain-smoking Grandma read

like *The Brady Bunch* as reimagined by Tennessee Williams.

The main challenge, Chester said, was to "communicate what happened to me and not sound like a victim. I realized when I wrote the book why I'm an actor. I've always been much more interested in other people's stories. Now I'm forced to write about myself, and I see how much it makes me uncomfortable."

Parker bothers

Not that Chester shrinks from the task; the book records his coming-out process and the comfort found in acting. But it also recounts his excesses: a recreational taste for Ecstasy and booze, and a penchant for abusive relationships. The chemical addictions were extinguished by 12-Step meetings. Dumped by his latest beau, Chester is still working on the boyfriend issue. Encouragement during this confessional time came chiefly from his close friend, actress Parker Posey, whom Chester credits as his "phantom editor."

Chester's memoir veers between a chronological retelling and a thematic dissection of his life. Laughs are dispensed with a slight ache. But some will be disappointed by the book's neglecting the rise and fall of Queer Cinema, since Chester was there at the creation. Where are renegade directors Tom Kalin and Gregg Araki these days? Why is Todd Haynes the only putative survivor of that brief cultural explosion?

Chester offers speculation on

the demise of the genre, and the popularity of more genial fare like *Will & Grace*: "People are fine with gay characters as long as they're making them laugh, doing their hair, or decorating their homes."

Recent roles on TV's *Sex and the City* and *Law and Order* have kept Chester before the cameras. He has also turned his energies to screenwriting. He is shopping around *Adam and Steve*, a modern take on the '30s screwball comedy. Readings have featured a knock-out cast including Malcolm Gets, Parker Posey, Margot Kidder, and Lea DeLaria. At a recent Manhattan reading for investors, the audience roared through almost two hours of endearing improbabilities — including a "meeting cute" scene involving drug-induced diarrhea.

Chester wrote the screenplay not only to give himself a plum role, but to offer the world a depiction of "gay couples out there who are nesting, not collapsing at circuit parties."

He is already envisioning his next project: a script involving one weekend shared by actor Montgomery Clift, singer Libby Holman and writer Jane Bowles at Holman's Connecticut getaway, Treetops. All three were known for fluid sexualities and troubled genius. But Monty holds the most fascination for Chester, since their destinies are at odds: The beautiful Clift lost his looks in an automobile crash; thanks to surgery, Chester made the transition from disfigurement to beauty. ▶



Chester: laughs with a slight ache



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Feisty times in Fiddleville

Beethoven, Mozart, not for the faint-hearted

by Tim Pfaff

It must be the best of times and the worst of times if you're a violinist. It seems that every other classical CD to hit the shelves is a violin concerto. (Try three new recordings of the Tchaikovsky Concerto in the last six months, two on the same label, from an industry that's crying poor. As a former colleague loved to say when spanking the music business, "Questions should be asked.") But never in my day has there been such a bumper crop of genuinely great violinists. Given that the number of jobs on the international violin circuit is finite, it must be a feral world out there in Fiddleville.

Two of the most compelling of the recent violin CDs are by women whose work cuts an interesting swath between the "grand tradition" and the leaner world of performance-practice-oriented string-playing. But the point of these two new recordings — Anne-Sophie Mutter's of the Beethoven Concerto (DG), and Viktoria Mullova's of Mozart's Concertos Nos. 1, 3, & 4 (Philips) — is the heights they reach. From any perspective, these are towering accounts of peaks of the Classical violin repertoire. I've listened to both dozens of times by now, and one of the few comforts of pre-war life is having them to live with for as long as we have left.

Neither of these musicians crawled up from the first-desk chairs of the Academy of Ancient Music. Mutter's career was launched by Herbert van Karajan, with whom she recorded the Beethoven first in 1977, when she was 16. Against all odds, her subsequent regular musical partner has been her accompanist, Lambert Orkis, a multivalent pianist one of whose strong leanings is toward historical performance. The full year the pair dedicated solely to the Beethoven sonatas (which they performed in SF and recorded for DG) shines through Mutter's luminous new account of the concerto (with the New York Philharmonic under Kurt Masur, recorded live last May) like a laser.

For all that, this is not "early-music" Beethoven, nor does it claim to be. Anyone expecting vibrato-free, slack-bowed, "straight" fiddling is in for a shock. Mutter lays into the violin's



Anne-Sophie Mutter: bold.

opening statement like a stonemason (indeed, she talks about the Beethoven as "the cathedral of violin concertos"). She does a lot of other things, like playing the Kreisler cadenzas, that would have put the last generation of early-music fiddlers into a dead faint. Her attention to architecture rather than ornament, articulation rather than artifice, sheds light as well as scorching heat on this much-exposed piece.

Mutter's playing is bold, daring and hungry. It completely sidesteps the Olympian perspective many a violin legend has taken with this piece, and sets a steady eye on loftier heights. "Playing doesn't get more elevated than her sublime Larghetto, and it's punctuated with its own surprises. Mere moments before her big-boned assault on the opening phrase of the final movement, Mutter deliberately exaggerates the movement's prominent, unadorned arpeggio — all but shouting it, but blanched of all vibrato — as if to say, "Look what Beethoven does here at the mountaintop: a fucking arpeggio!" You had to be there, and now you can.

Basic Instinct

Mullova's has been as bright and intense a star as Mutter's, if less constant. She's taken more time off, seeming to rethink things. In the mid-'80s, she formed her own ensemble to walk the paths performance practice was taking her down. The new Mozart CD, for which she also conducts the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, shows even greater levels of integration of "in-

formed" interpretation and superlative musicianship. It's Mozart "just right."

I cut my teeth on these concertos with the Heifetz recordings, and I had thought that I neither needed nor wanted any other. If the plane fare to Bangkok isn't an obstacle, you can come pick up 'em up any time now.

The day before I wrote this review, EMI's new recording of the Third Concerto, K. 219, with Itzhak Perlman playing and conducting the Berlin Philharmonic (also performing the Adagio and Fugue, K. 546, and the *Jupiter* Symphony, on EMI Classics, and also live, if you can call it that) appeared in Bangkok stores. It's business-as-usual Mozart, and utterly fades away in the sonic shadow of Mullova's. I may have scratched my copy yanking it out of the player.



Viktoria Mullova: potent.

Mullova's baton proves as potent a force as the bow of her 1723 "Jules Falk" Strad, and K. 219 has never seemed so streamlined, pointed and fully-realized. Winds and strings are in ideal balance, and the rhythms have real profile rather than the generic pep that gets so many Mozart-lovers off. That crowd might actually be put off by the specific gravity of these performances, which deftly balance weightlessness with that deep down-to-earthiness that makes Mozart Mozart. The K. 216's Adagio is a world of mixed emotion rather than the confection it's usually sold as. Mullova's own cadenza in the Rondeau is a case of lithe spirits circling one another. It's the ever-shifting play of light and shadow that makes this once-in-a-lifetime Mozart. ▼

FILM

Deconstructing Derrida



Filmmakers Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering Kofman's new documentary portrait of superstar French philosopher Jacques Derrida is the product of five years' access to the iconoclastic thinker. A camera crew tags along on his trip to South Africa, follows in his footsteps in Paris and New York City, and allows him to deconstruct his own interview footage. Wow, that's meta! *Derrida*, with a soundtrack by composer Ryuichi Sakamoto, opens Friday at the Opera Plaza in SF, and Shattuck Cinema in Berkeley.

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Julianne Moore's double-play

Great roles in 'Far from Heaven' and 'The Hours' simultaneously

by Tim Nesson

Forty-two-year-old Julianne Moore has been busy. Very busy. An actor is usually lucky to be considered at year's end for one Academy Award nomination. It's very unusual for an actor to be nominated for performances in two movies in one year. This seems to be Julianne's year.

Don't be shocked to see her winning Oscars in March for two movies: Best Actress for *Far from Heaven*, the story of a privileged housewife in '50s suburbia who finds out that her husband is gay, directed by Moore's best friend, the openly gay Todd Haynes; and Best Supporting Actress for *The Hours*.

The Hours, an homage to author Virginia Woolf and her first novel, *Mrs. Dalloway*, is based on gay author Michael Cunningham's 1998 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, and boasts an ensemble cast of past Oscar, Tony and Emmy winners and nominees in addition to Moore, including Meryl Streep, Nicole Kidman, Ed Harris, Claire Danes, Allison Janney, Jeff Daniels, Miranda Richardson, John C. Reilly, Eileen Atkins and Toni Collette. The film is directed by the openly gay Oscar-nominated director of *Billy Elliot*, Stephen Daldry, his sophomore effort.

Moore plays a severely depressed, sexually frustrated '50s housewife and mother in *The Hours*, one of three women in three stories set in three eras — the others are an unrecognizable Kidman as Woolf, and Streep as

Clarissa Vaughan, the modern-day, NYC version of Mrs. Dalloway.

Playing a mother comes easily to Moore, the mother of two children herself. In fact, during certain scenes of filming both *Heaven* and *Hours*, the directors needed to keep her ever-expanding stomach hidden, whether by focusing on her body above the waist, or stuffing her into specially-made, oversized dresses. "I was so pregnant when filming *Far from Heaven* and the reshoot ending of *The Hours*, I couldn't believe the cameras would be able to work magic and make me seem slim," Moore told the BAR.

In one scene in *The Hours*, Moore's character ages 50 years, and is made to look 80. "All of this makeup to make me look old," she said, "while, under the black dress, I'm ready to drop the baby! Certainly, the world's oldest pregnant woman."

Star vehicle

"My work in *Safe* in 1995 put me on the map, and I owe it all to Todd," Moore said of her *Heavenly* director. "I would do anything that Todd asked me to, but the fact that he wrote *Far from Heaven* for me to star in was such an honor."

Securing her role in *The Hours* was a little less of a shoo-in. "I read *The Hours* when it was first published. Though I loved it, I thought it would be the last book any producer or director would want to film. The novel seemed almost unfilmable, with three stories, in three eras, happening simultaneously. I was shocked when Scott Rudin called me and



Courtesy

Moore in *The Hours*: under the dress, she was ready to drop her baby.

offered me the role of Laura. Meryl and Nicole had already been cast. I was the last of the three main characters to be cast, but according to Scott, the first and only choice for the role of

Laura

Though married and the mother of a six-year-old in *The Hours*, Moore has a fleeting kiss and romantic moment with Toni Collette's character. Has she ever

kissed a woman in real life? "No, I have not. I identify as heterosexual."

Moore grew up traveling the world with her parents (her father was a military judge), graduating from Boston University with a BFA in 1983. After her stint on the soap *As the World Turns*, her first role on the big screen was in Curtis Hanson's *The Hand that Rocks the Cradle*. Her first big role in a motion picture was in Robert Altman's *Short Cuts* (1993). That role earned her notoriety for ironing nude in what is, to this day, the longest solo full-frontal female nude scene in mainstream movie history.

While picking and choosing her roles carefully, for the most part opting for smaller, independent movies, she is not adverse to doing movies with big paychecks, like *Hannibal*. "The big-budget movies I do I would like to also think are good movies. But by doing the ones that actually pay me something, I can do the smaller movies, the more intimate ones that seem, at times, to have no budget."

If you want more of Moore, all you need to do is turn on the TV. She's the new Revlon girl, and can be seen in commercials promoting Revlon products. "You can't get away from me," Moore said. "I'm taking over!" ▶

Berlin & Beyond

◀ Arts cover

the artist's works based on their relevance to the surrounding rural culture. (A flyer from the museum hilariously summarizes Warhol thus: "He painted Lenin and a cow's head.") The film is full of witty surprises: a self-proclaimed "Ruthenian Andy Warhol doppelganger" who wanders through town pretending to be his idol and serving Campbell's soup to passersby; a heated discussion of the artist's possible homosexuality ("Andy wasn't homosexual; his wife made him become homosexual!"); and bemused descriptions of stacks of artwork and high heels sent by Warhol to his relatives that were made into paper cones or tossed in the trash. (1/14)

Another excellent documen-

tary is Douglas Wolfsperger's *Belaria*, a compelling portrait of a group of elderly men and women who zealously patronize a small repertory cinema in Vienna devoted to German cinema of the 1930s and '40s. The film is a study of the far fringes of fandom and of a kind of nostalgia with grim undertones: it's soon clear from the interviews and the film clips that the "good old days" these fans relive on a daily basis, and yearn for, is also Hitler's Germany. Not that Wolfsperger dwells on this aspect. He's a balanced, simpatico chronicler of these eccentrics, who include hyper twins whose obsession with tracking down their favorite old film stars borders on stalking, and a retired drag queen who longs for the "dream world" of the cinematic past. As personally engaging as the group is, it's not hard to connect

the hermetic, idealized world they're fixated on with the impulses that fueled the Third Reich. (1/12)

Body shop

On a much more visceral note is writer-director Robert Schwentke's grimly effective neo-noir *Tattoo*. Drawing on previous works about gruesomes demimondes like *Seven* and the Hannibal Lecter series, the film follows an increasingly dizzying trek into a world in which body parts are "secured" and auctioned or traded by "connoisseurs." Marc, a young policeman, is forced into partnership with an older cop, Minks, after being caught with drugs at a rave, with the idea that Marc will help Minks gain entry into Germany's alternative cultures to find his missing daughter, who may or

next page ▶

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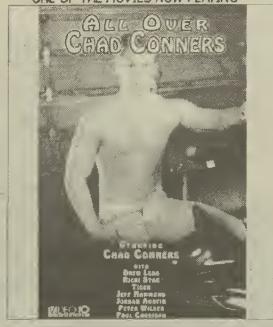
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High-flying male voices

Chanticleer's new journey into vocalism

by Jason Serinus

Chanticleer - *Our American Journey* (Teldec)

Flying high from a year that has included a world premiere of music written for them by John Taverner; a February *Gramophone* cover story; a rare article in France's *Le Monde*; and a 12-station PBS broadcast of their annual New York Christmas concert, Chanticleer has recently released its 25th CD, *Our American Journey*. An 18-selection survey of four centuries of music from the Americas, the disc is an ideal vehicle for displaying the vocal range and emotional depth of this superb all-male ensemble. More to the point, a lot of it is drop-dead gorgeous.

Although Chanticleer's

founder, Louis Bott, died of AIDS in 1997, and only four of the singers who sang with the ensemble in 1991 remain, their sound is for the most part as satisfying as ever. The vocal balance now favors high voices, with three sopranos, three altos, three tenors, and only three singers serving dual duty as baritone & bass replacing the three countertenors, three tenors, three baritones, and three basses heard on Chanticleer's 1982 Christmas recording, *Psallite!*

The blend thus emphasizes higher, soaring voices, with lower voices providing a softer foundation. On the plus side, this results in a frequently angelic sound, but it occasionally produces singing that lacks punch. While such a problem never surfaces on this disc, what does mar a few tracks, notably William Billings' "David's

Lament" and A.M. Cagle's "Soar Away" (both sung with endearingly phony hick accents), is the tendency for one of the male sopranos to emit his highest notes with a squeaky stridency that suggests his pants are much too tight. In fact, in contemporary Native American composer Brent Michael David's "The Un-Covered Wagon," the high shrieks on Native American chant suggest that this singer would have either been revered as a Two-Spirit in his tribe or thrown off a cliff. Thankfully, in softer singing, and notes lying lower in the range, the sound is ideal.

Among the high points of the disc are Don Juan de Lienas' 17th-century "Credidi," a setting of Psalm 115, and the contemporary Steven Stucky's gorgeous "Whispers." Long-time Music Director



The men of all-male vocal ensemble Chanticleer: drop-dead gorgeous.

Joseph Jennings' arrangements of the concluding four tracks, Ann Ronell's bluegrass-inspired "Willow Weep for Me," the Lawson/Waller/Yates "Calling My Children Home," the traditional "Wayfarin' Stranger," and the African-American "I'm a Pilgrim" (with Jennings providing an authentic-sounding, albeit not high-flying voice), are equal standouts.

Gene Puerling's slow, dreamy arrangement of Stephen Foster's "Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair" (featuring a beautiful solo by tenor Michael Lichtenauer) and his heaven-sent setting of George Gershwin's "Love Walked In" yield treasurable performances. With music as beautiful as this, this is a disc you will want to share over and over with friends and loved ones. ▼



Douglas Wolfsperger's *Bellaria* is a portrait of elderly cinema patrons a little too nostalgic for the Hitler years.

Berlin & Beyond

◀ previous page

may not have a connection with the flesh-swapping ring. Schwentke doesn't flinch from the subject — there are enough burned corpses, lopped-off heads, and chunks of skin to satisfy the most ardent gorehound. But the film's pervasive darkness, the expert acting, and unobtrusive acting balance out the gorefest. A weak ending annoys, but doesn't ruin *Tat-tat*'s achievement. (1/11)

Doris Dorrie is a familiar name on the festival circuit, though her films have rarely had a commercial release on American screens. Dorrie solves the eternal dilemma of every novelist who's ever been appalled at a film version of their work. She writes the book, and then makes it into a movie herself. This is the case with *Nackt* (*Naked*), based on her novel *Happy*. Dorrie's work is typically gently absurd, and *Nackt* is no exception. Here she assembles six couples in various stages of romantic upheaval, bringing them together for a dinner at which one of those poten-

tially catastrophic party games is played. The game requires the couples to get naked and blindfolded, and then to try to identify their partner. Dorrie is able to juggle the heavier aspects of her theme of lack of communication with a playful, whimsical style. A typical "heavy" conversation between a troubled couple occurs while one rides a bike through the kitchen; another chat (this is an intensely "dialogued" film) happens with the principals wearing bags over their heads. "Every moment has a million possibilities," says Annette, and *Nackt* illustrates this idea to splendid effect. (1/11)

Then there's Pago Balke and Eike Besuden's *Crazy About Paris*. This feature about the escape of three disabled people from an oppressive group home avoids the "noble cripple" clichés that too often capsizes such dramas, opting instead for a warts 'n' all portrayal of a kind of human energy that propels people forward regardless of their status or shape. There's a sense of the sweetly delusional in characters like the stolid old woman Hilde. Her assumption that any place she sees a black per-

son is Africa, a gag the film milks to maximum effect, doesn't detract from her humanity and strength as the de facto leader of the group. The film's use of disabled actors will make it initially uncomfortable for some viewers, but the triumph of the trio makes it well worth the ride, and one of the highlights of this always wor-

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Leather takes the high road

by Mister Marcus

We head into 2003 confident that you'll all participate and support the worthy charities and their events. The New Year promises to be another panorama of leather events, mostly geared to benefit others who are less fortunate than the average guy or gal. Leather title contests can produce leaders with new ideas, the ability to inspire younger men or women and a sense of accomplishment that makes "leather pride" a meaningful endeavor to pursue.

While some may criticize this column as a showcase for the egos of those who would dare to win a leather title, there are others who espouse the leather title system and those who hold the titles because leadership is defined by individuals who make a difference with those titles. This may not always be the case, but a good percentage of leather title holders leave legacies of their year with the sash and in many cases, go on to become viable, creative and honored leaders.

With this thought in mind, the coming year, as always, will separate the men from the boys. Already, there are over 30 men who will strut their stuff on the stage in Chicago next May when IML reaches the ripe old age of 25. There are several contests throughout the land coming your way in the next few weeks, among them Mr. San Francisco Leather 2003 on Saturday, March 8 — the same day as the Mr. San Diego Leather 2003 contest.

The Mr. SF Leather Committee chose to stage two contests this year. In March, the winner will serve only six months until September when Mr. SF Leather 2004 will be chosen on the Saturday night before the Folsom Street Fair.

And while on the subject, there seems to be some confusion around regarding holding this title. Mr. San Francisco Leather is obligated to do one thing: to represent our community at IML in

Chicago. He is not obligated to stage any fundraisers. Most past Mr. SF Leathers who did stage benefits or fundraisers did so of their own volition. Many eligible men feel they do not have the time to hold the title because of this misconception. The winner of the title is furnished round-trip airfare, five days of hotel accommodations in Chicago, plus a nominal amount of cash for food or other miscellaneous expenses. That doesn't seem like a daunting deterrent to anyone competing.

Marlena's Bar has already staged the Mr. Hayes Valley Leather contest and, for the moment, Mike Dumont is the only candidate for Mr. SF Leather 2003. Daddy's Bar has scheduled their contest for Thursday, February 13. No word yet from the Edge, Powerhouse, Loading Dock or even Stompers Boots on their contests. People keep asking me why the Loading Dock has never entered a contestant and my response is: "Ask them."

And speaking of asking, do you have questions about this title? A new website has been launched for your guidance and information. If you are thinking about running, click on www.mrsleather.com and browse the Frequently Asked Questions section.

Start thinking of continuing the legacy of the Mr. San Francisco Leather title. After all, no other city or leather community has yet topped our four wins at IML: David Kloss (1979), Marty Kiker (1982), Patrick Toner (1985) and Lenny Broberg (1992).

Awards up for grabs

For all those people who did

honorable things during the past year, there are awards waiting to be snared. The Pantheon of Leather Awards are being held in Chicago again this year in February during the Cell Block's Leatherfest weekend and here at home, Inter-Club Fund will stage their awards ceremony on Saturday, February 15. Both awards shows have a roster with so many names on it, it would be impossible to list them all here, but you'll find out who won when the time arrives.



The country of Mexico will make its debut on the IML 2003 stage in Chicago with Leo Suarez, Mr. Leather Mexico 2002. Señor Leo won his title at a contest held in Guadalajara.

ble to list them all here, but you'll find out who won when the time arrives.

\$11,500 at Bare Chest auction

It was wall to wall bodies at the Eagle tavern last Sunday, January 5 as six Bare Chest Calendar men were auctioned off by Lenny Broberg with more funny moments than I can remember. Between the beer/soda bust and the generosity of the bidders, a whopping \$11,500 total went to the coffers of the AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resource Center. The Calendar Men themselves managed to gather up items that went with the dinner dates at some of our town's most elegant restaurants. The Bare Chest Calendar committee served a great spaghetti-and-meatballs dinner with salad and garlic bread and it was a triumph all around.

The first contest for the 2004 calendar takes place tonight, Thursday, January 9th at the Powerhouse, but before that checks will be presented to the beneficiaries from sales of the 2003 calendar and rumor has it that it will be close to \$40,000. Our calendar is all over the world by now and thank you all for your support in this annual endeavor. And bravo to the calendar committee...they pee'd! ▀

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, January 9

Mr. January 2004 will be chosen tonight for the Bare Chest Calendar at the Powerhouse with Joe Potter, Scott Brogan, James Scott Geras and Ing Yun judging. Be there at 2130 and cheer your favorite on!

Saturday, January 11

If you're in the Long Beach area, the Regiment of the Black & Tans Uniform Club stages their Mr. Regiment Leather at Pistons Bar. This is the 2nd of 9 contests leading to Mr. Los Angeles Leather on March 29.

Sunday, January 12

Golden Gate Guards MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon today from 1600 to 2000 for only \$7. Always fun with the Guards!

Wednesday, January 15

Model all those new skivvies you got for Christmas at Underwear Buddies, 933 Harrison tonight. You know the rules. If you got it flaunt it, but if you flaunt it, expect to have it trashed!

Weekend, January 16-19

Mr. British Columbia Leather weekend in Vancouver

ver when Gordon Alexander passes the sash to a successor. Lots of events over the weekend.

Thursday, January 16

Mr. February 2004 will be chosen for the Bare Chest calendar tonight, 2130 at the Powerhouse. Judging: Coverman Ken Ferraris, Doug Mezzacappa, James Scott Geras and porn aficionado Will Clark.

Weekend, January 17-20

Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Contest weekend in Washington, DC with hordes of events and naming Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2003. David Baldwin steps aside for a successor.

Polar Bear Weekend up at the Russian River Resort area with lots of events to keep you busy.

Friday, January 17

Exiles of SF women gather at the Women's Building tonight with Ruth Marks expounding on canes! Doors open 1930, program at 2000. \$3 members/\$6 guests. Click on exiles@theexiles.org.

Saturday, January 18

Mr. Long Beach Leather at Pistons in North Long Beach today, the 3rd of 9 contests leading to Mr. Los Angeles Leather.

PORN

A Knight at the orgy

by John F. Karr

The main come-on for *Porn Struck 4* is the comeback of knightly performer Chad Knight. Yet not much is made of his or any other scene in the movie. It won't bore you — the guys are attractive, and the sex earnestly performed — but it's pretty generic.

The movie serves in part as a come-on for the All Worlds Resort in Palm Springs, where its five scenes were filmed, but none of the five directors (one for each scene) has made much use of the setting. There's no steam in the steamroom, and no cozy intimacy before the crackling fire. For sure, Chi Chi LaRue directs her poolside segment in typically faster, harder, thrill-me-now mode. But the editor has shredded the sequence. It's only nine minutes, barely two minutes longer than the trailer advertising the Resort that precedes the feature on every All Worlds movie. When viewers are routinely expected to skip plot scenes, who is it that thinks they'll relish a seven-minute commercial just as they're greasing up?

Porn Struck 4 has a couple more rushed, porn-by-the-numbers scenes before reaching a rouser, director Mike Donner's 18-minute fourway with some hardworking, attractive studs. A strange decision here, though, was to allow the Resort's patrons to watch from the sidelines. Despite the porno's promise that checking in to a gay men's resort results in unchecked passion, the gawkers are an unavoidable reminder that the people you meet there will look more like you and me than they will the cast of a porn flick. Yet, with Donner's fuckers tearing each other apart, they're ignorable.

Although more should have been made of the scene, director Chad Donovan doesn't disgrace himself with the 20 minutes allotted to Chad Knight and his in-

triguing co-star, Kris Kole. True to the stereotype of lanky kids, Kole's got several handfuls of long and firm boycock. When Knight slides all the way down astraddle it, it makes him shoot over his shoulder.

Editor Rafael could have eased up on his hatchet job — *Porn Struck 4* is only an hour and a quarter. The acceptable videography, jangly unacceptable meth-music, and lighting's harsh glare are uncredited.

It's academic

Better to catch Chad Knight in his next, and genuinely starring vehicle. *Porn Academy* is a jaunty romp with stylish and bright musical-comedy sets, a perky musical score, and a general all-around freshness which uniquely includes nimble touches of porn-industry satire. And at the Porn Academy, where they're being schooled in becoming the porn stars of tomorrow, there are several students whose graduate work will be eagerly awaited: bad boy Andy Hunter, streetwise charmer Jason McCain, and humpy, innocent Danny Lopez.

My favorite courses at the academy include Blow Job 101, in which the class eagerly (and expertly) practice deep-throating on flat-bodied Andy Hunter's spectacular diving-board dick. And then there's Bottom Class, in which Blake Harper, the guy with the masterass, gives a master class in dildo-ology. In vaudeville, this is called The Star Turn, and its boffo finale makes it a hard act to follow. Not to worry. It's just the warm-up for the movie's climax, Knight's powerfuck with Hunter. Knight bounces lustfully on what looks like 12 solid inches of Hunter's straight-and-firm-as-a-ruler cock, producing dazzling jizz-launchings from both boys.

A smart change of pace brings us a touch of romance for the next scene, before leading into the Final Exam Student Orgy. Long before all this, there was a satisfying

All in the royal family

by Sweet Lips

Get ready for "The United Rockstar Court of Truth or Dare," otherwise known as Coronation 38, to be presented by The Imperial Council of San Francisco, Inc. on Saturday, February 22. It's shaping up to be a blast. I can't wait to see Portland's entry with the zany Mame! For more information and updates, call John at 673-0405 or Marlena at 864-6672.

All you local royalty watchers take note: On Sunday, January 12, there will be a 70th birthday party for the magnificent Empress Maximus that you must not miss. She'll be there with her entourage, and you're welcome to come kiss her royal... hand!

Friends and family of the late, great Mair have been busy polishing up that great diva's legacy. A fund has been established by David Slocum to purchase an engraved brick at the Circle of

Friends in the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park in honor of the late Mair, and a star-studded celebration of Mair's life will take place Saturday, February 8 at Tango Tango, beginning at 5 p.m. An auction of Mair's furs, gowns, wigs, and jewelry will take place at the Cinch on Saturday, January 18 at 3 p.m. Donations in Mair's memory may be dropped off at Tango Tango, the Cinch, the Rendez-Vous, or Kimo's.

Yet another couple are fleeing San Francisco for higher ground, and you still have time to see them off. Friday, January 24 will be JD's last shift at Kimo's, as he and his Jimmy are moving to their ranch near Modesto, so come on down to say goodbye to this very personable young man.

A lovely couple, Janice and Joe,



All Worlds Video

Chad Knight in *Porn Struck 4*.



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Cocktail Hour

have opened a great breakfast place you should check out, and let's hope they can keep it afloat! It's called the Titanic Café, and as it's described on the website [www.jdvhospitality.com](http://WWW.JDVHOSPITALITY.COM), the place is tucked away in the whimsical Commodore Hotel, and is "a postage stamp-sized Deco-era diner with a nautical twist. Offbeat and fun-loving, this hip little café rolls truck-stop dining, American Graffiti, and California cuisine all into one. Serving breakfast and lunch daily." The joint is located at 817 Sutter. Call them at 928-8870.

The Club Rendez-Vous has karaoke on Wednesday nights from 8:30 p.m. until half past Midnight, with the great Joshua in charge, and the sexy Oscar doing the fantastic music with no end to the tunes, so don't miss it. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Save Venue 9!

Okay, I've been lame and haven't checked out the offerings at Venue 9, which is situated at 252 Ninth St. (at Folsom), only a block from the BAR office. I'm well aware they do great stuff there, including the "Women on the Way" (WOW) festival that opens this Thursday, January 16. I get the press releases, I'm familiar with some of the artists, I feel the energy and vibe emanating from the place, and I'm always intending to go there — but, well, you know, life has a way of bending intentions into pretzels, and somehow I end up back where I started, having bypassed countless times what I know to be superior performances witnessed by enthusiastic audiences.

Meanwhile, Venue 9 is the latest arts organization to be grappling with eviction, and this time it looks like the building owner is going to win out, so the organization must relocate. It's a sad scenario, too often repeated, and it will have major ripple effects through the community. Many outstanding talents have been nurtured by Footloose at Venue 9, and to help keep the theater stay alive by finding it a new home, more than 25 performers will be throwing a fundraising party at El Rio, the Mission District bar that has long offered queer artists and others a place to party and perform.

In once section of Venue9.com, Footloose Artistic and Executive Director Mary Alice Fry is characterized — aptly, from everything I've heard of her and her organization — as "the driving force behind the creation and success of Venue 9 as the premiere performance space in San Francisco's South of Market." She's spent 35 years in dance and theatre as performer, director and producer, and has 25 years' experience in the fields of law, education, marketing and regional sales management, making her a natural leader in nonprofit community service organizations.

That said, it seems she shouldn't have too hard a time finding another performance space, but it's going to be a hassle, and take time, and uproot artists, and change the performance landscape, and so on, so patrons of the arts would do well to ease the process by attending the fab El Rio soiree and contributing to the cause.

The glitz and glamour at El Rio will be hosted by Sister Kitty Catalyst and Sister Lolita Me Into Temptation. Featured performers include Scrumbly Koldewyn (of Cockettes fame) and Cindy Goldfield doing original, hilarious show tunes; Mark Growden on wild, wonderful accordion; Kitten on the Keys flirting with the piano; J. Raoul Brody and Laurie Amat doing wicked funny songs; Frankie and the Frankettes, a Frank Sinatra drag-king act; queer writer/performer Heather Gold who recently premiered her one-woman show at the Jon Sims Center; sexy poets butcherR and smearR offering gritty poetry, lyrics, an electric guitar and a laptop; M.I. Blue delivering over-the-top "Word Fucks"; The Rocco Risqué Cabaret, an amazing vaudevillian troupe, and lots more. Come early for the salsa class and stay late for the Latin dance party.

For more details, see the Saturday "Out & About" listing. ▼

5

Capitola Theater, Capitola

"Surf Fashion Show" to benefit Ride A Wave Foundation. Live music, dancers, surf photography slide show, raffle prizes, free giveaways, and lots of hip surf fashion modeled by local surf talent. Capitola is an intimate beach village tucked in a river valley in Santa Cruz County on the Monterey Bay. \$10. 7-10pm. Tix/info: Paradise Surf Shop, 3961 Portola Drive, Santa Cruz; 831-462-3880.

'Hedwig' @ Victoria Theatre

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch," by John Cameron Mitchell, with music and lyrics by Stephen Trask. Starring Kevin Cahoon, with Lisa M. Engelken, Matthew Black, Nick Fogler, and Matthew Sperry. Directed by Jason Eagan. Music direction by Perry Jay. \$25 & \$30. Wed., Thu., & Fri. at 8pm; Sat. at 7 & 10pm; Sun. at 7pm. Opened run. 2961 16th St. (btwn Mission & S. Van Ness). Info: hedwigsf.com; tickets.com

StudioZ.tv

Ravin' Films Presents "SOULSVILLE: An Evening of Film and Music Films produced for the Stax Museum of American Soul Music With Special Musical Guests." Reception, rare video performances, Memphis soul food, and no host bar. Producer, Director & Editor Bob Sardles has directed eight films for this project, including portraits of Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes, Booker T. & The MGs, and a documentary about the roots of American soul music and the history of STAX records. Doors open 7:30pm; film program begins at 8:45pm sharp (don't be late!). No admission during the film program. Live music begins at 10:15pm. \$5 cover after 9pm; free 8-9pm. 7:30pm - 2am. 21+ w/ID. StudioZ.tv (formerly the Transmission Theater), 314 Eleventh St. (at Folsom). Info/RSPV: 252-7666; studioz.tv/events/ravinfilms; www.ravinfilms.com.

'Derrida' @ Opera Plaza Cinema

In person: Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering Kofman, co-directors of *Derrida*, a doc about French philosopher Jacques Derrida, best known for Deconstruction. They capture him in private moments in South Africa, Paris, NYC. A meditation on the themes that inspired him. Music by Ryuichi Sakamoto. \$9. 7:30 & 9:30pm. 601 Van Ness. Info: 352-0810.

6

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans

Mt. Diablo hike with Gay & Lesbian Sierrans, an activity section of the Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club. Meet at the Walnut Creek BART station at 9:30am, or the Clayton Library at 10am. Bring lunch & liquids. Heavy rain cancels. Info: 925-229-4283; 707-566-7274

7

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9

Venue 9 benefit @ El Rio

Benefit party for Venue 9, featuring a huge array of stellar entertainers. \$9-99 donation. 9pm-2am. 21+ w/ID. No reservations required. 3158 Mission Street (at Cesar Chavez). Info: 415/289-2000; www.venue9.com

The Black Box, Oakland

liquidFIRE Productions presents "Wet," a sultry cabaret featuring Erotic Expressions by Lesbians, Bisexual Women, and Transgender People of Color. Created/directed by Veronica C. Combs. Sexy spoken word, music, dance and song that promise to make you wet and leave you wanting more. \$15-\$1,000 sliding. Two shows: 7:30pm & 9:30pm. 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Tix/info: 861-8208.

LYRIC @ The Center

Opening reception: "LYRIC's 3rd Annual Queer Youth Art Show," presented by the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), featuring more than 25 GLBTQ artists ages 25 and under. Their paintings, sculpture, photography, drawing and multimedia will be on display at The Center through January. Featuring a retrospective of "Free Zone," the three-year arts-for-social-change collaboration between the GSA Network and LYRIC, including the 2001 video "As If It Matters," the 2000 photography project "High Contrast," and this year's poster project, "Liberation Ink." The opening reception includes spoken word, dance and performance art. Free. 7-9pm. 1800 Market St. (at Laguna). Info: 703-6150; lyric.org

ATA Gallery

Artists' Television Access presents *Sonata For The World!* by Jason Leonard, local artist and animator, whose film recently screened at the KROK International Film Festival in St. Petersburg Russia and also with Sprocket Ensemble's "Ideas in Animation." Tonight Leonard will be performing a live score using home-made and traditional instruments to accompany his film. \$5. 8pm. 992 Valencia (at 21st St.). Info: 824-3890; www.atasite.org

Synergy School

"Naughty and Nice Queer Ballroom Partner Dancing." No partner or experience needed. All ages. 6:30 & 7:30pm lessons in Viennese Waltz and Rhumba. 9pm-midnight dancing to salsa, swing, West Coast Swing, two stepping and more. \$10 (NOTAFLOR). 1387 Valencia St. (at 25th St.). Info: 305-8242; www.queerballroom.com

Eureka Valley (Mark Bingham) Rec Center

Triangle TKD hosts a "Taekwon Do Tournament" coordinated by Master Ken Craig (4th dan) and Mister Jim Gardner (2nd dan). The morning session will consist of traditional forms, creative forms and demonstration team events. The afternoon session will consist of TMAA Olympic style sparring. Black belts and colored belts of all ranks at least 18 years-of-age (by Jan. 11) are invited to participate. Triangle works to promote martial arts in the Bay Area, as well as self-defense and physical well-being within

the LGBT community. Registration: \$40 flat-fee for one or more events. Spectators free-of-charge. 9:30am-4pm. Eureka Valley (Mark Bingham) Recreational Center at 18th and Collingwood (one block west of Castro Street). Info: 495-1888; email ttkdc@aol.com.

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Lavender Seniors, a group for gay, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders over the age of 55, holds their monthly potluck at noon. They also seek volunteers of all ages to work with socially isolated seniors. San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Info/rides from BART: 510-667-9655.

'Cowboy Boogie' @ All Saints

Episcopal Hall

"Cowboy Boogie!" A new queer dance event featuring east and west coast swing, lindy and country western music. Free basic swing and two-step lessons 6:30-7:30pm; dancing from 7:30-11pm. \$5-\$7 sliding donation. 6:30-11pm. 1350 Waller St. (btwn Masonic & Ashbury). Info: Ken at 821-0423.

8

Unitarian Universalist Church

In concert: Symphony Parnassus, Stephen Paulson, Music Director, with Mack McCray, piano soloist and Alexandra Ivanoff, soprano. On the bill: Mozart's Symphony #39 in E-flat, K.543; Dvorak's "Song to the Moon" from Rusalka; and Brahms' Piano Concerto #1 in D minor, Opus 15. \$15 adults; \$8 students. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary). Tix/info: 986-6026.

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Tonight Leonard will be performing a live score using home-made and traditional instruments to accompany his film. \$5. 8pm. 992 Valencia (at 21st St.). Info: 824-3890; www.atasite.org

Chardonnay Hall, Napa Valley

The Napa Valley Symphony presents one of the hottest young pianists in the world, Anthony Molinaro, performing the Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 and other pieces under the baton of music director Asher Raboy. Molinaro captured the 1997 Naumburg Int'l Piano Competition, has performed a Bach CD featuring the Goldberg Variations and



Spencer Day returns from "Star Search" to perform with his jazz combo at the Plush Room. See Sunday

the concert with The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields

Chamber Orchestra and Andrew Litton, as well as a Gershwin disc including his own solo version of *Rhapsody in Blue*, \$34 & \$40 (students half price). 3pm. Also Tue, Jan. 14 at 8pm. Napa Valley Exposition grounds. Tix/info: 707-226-8742; www.napavalleysymphony.org

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Cataract/High Marsh Trail Hike. The trail ascends tumbling falls and cascades in this scenic canyon and then traverses the lush western woodland slope of Mt. Tam. It's a moderate 8-mile hike with a 2,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Eagle Tavern

Bear bust to benefit Catherine's House, a retreat for people living with AIDS and their caregivers, located in the foothills of the Sierra at Catholic Worker Farm. The place needs a new well. Help make it happen and have fun. There'll be a raffle and more. 3-6pm. 398 12th St. Info: Richard Hammer, 510-625-1184; email hildahelen@juno.com

Red Vic Movie House

Screening: *Sounds Sacred*, director Barbara Rick's soulful exploration of how humans connect with the spiritual through distinct practices of voice, rhythm and ritual, from chanting Benedictine nuns to sacred singers from Iraq, to SF's own Glide Memorial Church Choir. Commentary on the relevance of the acoustic to the spirit by author Deepak Chopra. Filmmaker in person at evening screenings, Jan. 12-15 at 7:15 & 9:15pm; additional shows Sun. 2 & 4pm & Wed. 2pm. 1727 Haight St. Info: 668-8999.

Kimo's

"The Art of War: A Night of Psychological Warfare," featuring various local bands and speakers. \$5. 8pm. 1351 Polk St. (at Pine).



The Napa Valley Symphony presents young, hot piano maestro Anthony Molinaro. See Sunday.

Mon

QComedy @ The Center

"QComedy Showcase," Monday Night Gay Comedy hosted by Dana Cory, with a lineup of the city's best queer and queer-friendly comedians. Featuring Bridget Schwartz, Erin Souza, Roscoe Bing, Bob Douglas, Ken Miller and more. \$8-\$15 sliding. Doors open 7:30pm; show at 8pm sharp. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org; www.QComedy.com



Lindsay Anderson as Sleepwalker, and David Mendelsohn as the dark narrator Soulstalker, in FoolsFURY's *The Dreamstealers* at EXIT Theater. See Thursday.

Tue

SF LGBT

Community Center

"Pride 2004 On July 4th? What Do You Think?" The Pride Committee seeks public comment from the community on a proposal received by the Committee to move the date of SF LGBT Pride from July 4th. Organizations or individuals who contact the Pride Committee in advance may reserve up to 2 minutes of speaking time. Otherwise, time available for comment will be determined by the number of persons/organizations wishing to speak, with a maximum of 2 minutes per group and 1 minute per individual. One hour has been allocated on the agenda for public testimony on this issue. 7pm-9pm, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). To reserve speaking time at the meeting, call the Pride Office at: 864-0831 or email media@sf-pride.org. Info: pride4th.weblogger.com.

'Trannyshack'

"Timmy turns 50!" Drag terrorist Timmy Spence celebrates his birthday with a tribute to '70s stadium rock. Hosted by Heklina, with DJ Pinky Ring spinning up and away, and Miss Chocolate grabbing yer money. \$6. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). 9th & Harrison. Info: www.heklina.com

Berkeley Rep's

Thrust Stage

West Coast Premiere; one week only (Jan. 14-19): "The Distribution of Empathy," written and performed by Karen Finley, member of the notorious NEA Four, known for her use of humor and in-your-face examinations of sex and suffering. This performance-styled-as-lounge-act chronicles the intersection of Finley's personal pathos with the confounding behavior of New Yorkers following the

9/11 World Trade Center attack. Both riveting and funny, this first person account of Finley's attempt to make sense of tragedy illuminates the human condition. \$25 Tue-Wed, Thu and Sun; \$30 Fri-Sat. Tue-Fri at 8pm, Saturday at 7pm and 9:30pm, Sunday at 7pm. 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. Tix: (510) 647-2949 or (888) 4BRTTix. Info: berkeleyrep.org

Harvey's Castro

"Brownies For My Bitches," with a party by DJs Saratoga, Waxchel + Melissa serving up electro, pop, and hip hop. Best looking young lesbian crowd you'll find in SF, along with dyke mites, or whatever those boys are called. Great bar staff. 10pm-2 am. 18th St. & Castro.

Wed

Jon Sims

Center for the Arts

"LIT @ JSC" presents writers Justin Chin and Beth Lisick. As one of the most celebrated gay Asian American writers of our day, Chin has enjoyed enthusiastic receptions for his readings. He's the author of two poetry collections, *Harmless Medicine* and *Bite Hard* (Manic Press), and two collections of essays, *Burden of Ashes* (Alyson Press) and *Mongrel: Essays, Diatribes and Pranks* (St. Martin's Press). Writer/performer Lisick is the author of *Monkey Girl* and *this Too Can Be Yours*, both from Manic D Press. She is a member of White Noise Radio Theatre, a sketch comedy group, and has a new band with her husband Eli called The Loins. \$7-\$12 sliding (NOTAFL0F). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimscr.org

'Stood Up!'

@ The Stud

Comic Ronn Vigh and drag comedian Pippi Lovestocking host "Stood Up! A Diverse Evening of Stand Up

Comedy and Mayhem!" It's off-the-wall and outrageous. This week marks the show's 1-year anniversary with special guests Simone Alexander, Nick Leonard, Gretchen Rootes and more. \$5 (2 for 1 admission b4 7:30pm). 8pm. 9th & Harrison.

A Different Light Bookstore

Author Robert Conner reads from his novel, *Cut to the Bone*. This unflinching portrayal of a merciless man searching for redemption behind the barrel of a gun offers a blistering update on the traditional Western, where bad men inadvertently become heroes and the law is often irrelevant. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; www.adlbooks.com

Thu

'WOW Fest'

@ Venue 9

Opening Night Gala: "Women on the Way Festival," produced by Mary Alice Fry, featuring the SF premiere of "Without Walls" for one night only. This special benefit for Reality Theater celebrates the power of theater to portray the complex reality of why women become homeless.

These are the real stories by the real women who lived them. Producer and activist Carmen McKay creates stage productions with women living on the streets of San Francisco. She separates the con artists from sincere

women who want to work and find a home. McKay's "Without Walls" garnered her the California State Senate Certificate of Recognition for her "creative illustration of the plight of the homeless."

\$15-\$20 sliding; \$25 opening night gala (Jan. 18). Thru Feb. 15. 8pm. 156 eddy St. (btwn Mason & Taylor). Tix/info: 866-GOT FURY (468-3879); www.foolsfury.org

of World War II to the lights of Broadway comes this tale of love and lust set in the midst of world turmoil and personal panic. Traumatized by combat in WWII, a man wakes up in an army hospital after the Battle of the Bulge suffering from amnesia. He can't remember his name, background, or the fact he's gay. Rescued from lobotomizing psychiatrists by a faded Hollywood actress, he embarks on a journey across war torn Europe, determined to solve the mystery of his libido. Starring Elsa Wolthausen, Treacy Corrigan, John Fisher, Jeffrey Hartgraves, Sky Huessenstamm, Sarah Korda, Greg Lucey and Matt Weimer. Opens Sat., Jan. 18. \$15 previews (Jan. 16 & 17); \$16 Wed.; \$20 Thu. & Sun mat & evenings; \$25 Fri. & Sat. Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. (at Capp). Tix/info: 861-5079; www.therhino.org

'Rhinos' @ The Center

Artists' reception: "25 Rhinos." In celebration of Theatre Rhinoceros' 25th Anniversary, 25 Rhino Sculptures have been designed, decorated, dressed in drag and adorned by visual & performance artists, political & entertainment celebs and local community organizations & activists. They'll be auctioned off on January 21. Get a preview tonight and meet the artists, including Jordy Jones, Debra Walker, Paul Gallo, Tom Ammiano, Mitcho, Dan Pillers, Rudy Lemcke, Doug Holsclaw, members of LYRIC, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Visual Aid, and the Gay and Lesbian Artists' Alliance, and such dignitaries as Mark Leno, Carole Migden, Mayor Willie Brown, James Hormel, Susan Leal and more. Free. 7pm. 1800 Market St. Info: 552-4100; www.therhino.org

A Different Light

Charles Pierce was one of the most renowned female impersonators of all time. But few of his fans know the true and — until now — untold story of Pierce's rise from Pasadena Playhouse drama student to world-renowned artist. Author John Wallraff tells the warts-and-all saga of the young man with stars in his eyes who climbed the ladder to fame and fortune. Free. 7:30pm.

EXIT Theater

Preview: FoolsFURY presents the fantastical modern-verse play *The Dreamstealers*, by Stephen Jacob. It's a kaleidoscope of dream visions and reality blending fairy tale and Greek tragedy. Deep inside a successful Dream Syndicate, an egomaniacal entrepreneur has hatched an illicit immortality project, an artificial child whose existence threatens the very foundations of the universe. \$15-\$20 sliding; \$25 opening night gala (Jan. 18). Thru Feb. 15. 8pm. 156 eddy St. (btwn Mason & Taylor). Tix/info: 866-GOT FURY (468-3879); www.foolsfury.org

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

Deadline is the
Friday before
issue date.

We love to see you smile!



SF BADLANDS Dancing Every Night
18th St. Mr. Castro

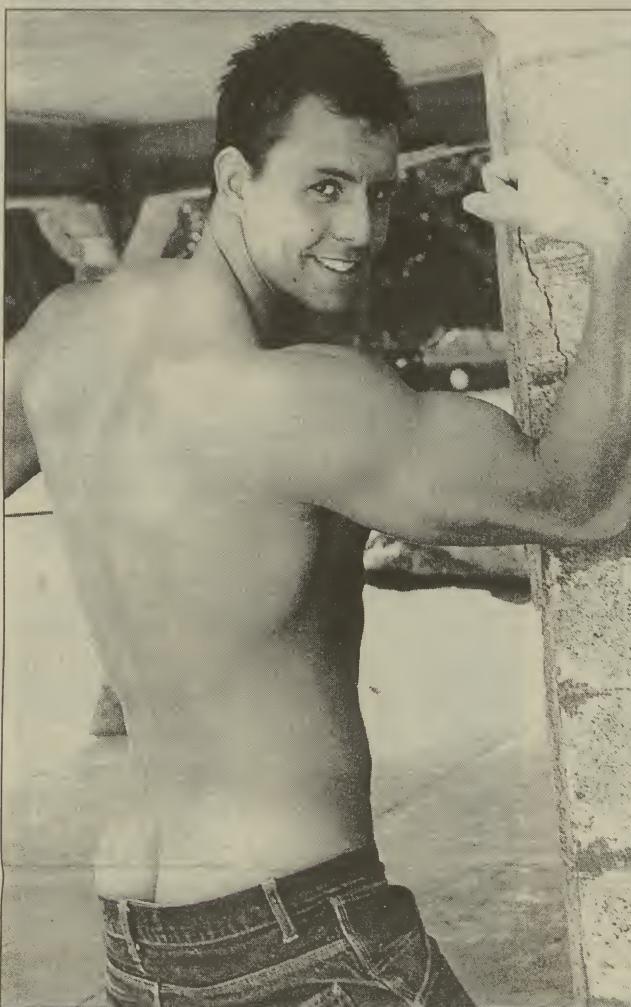


2051 Market at Church • Info: 864-3767 • Massage appts: 255-4921



photo by Steven Underhill (415) 978-2463

BAR TALK



1.900.226.7036

Only \$1.99 per minute to respond to ads!

Available only on touch-tone telephones. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

Don't want to use the #900 line? Use BLOCK OF TIME™

You can purchase time on our system by calling 1-800-321-6845 and requesting a 10, 20, 30, or 60 minute Block of Time™ with discounts of up to 20%. The cost is \$1.99 per minute and you may use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express card. You will be able to respond, browse, and retrieve messages by using your Block of Time™ account from any touch-tone phone!

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
- Seeking Adventure
- Lesbian
- Fetishes
- Couples
- Others

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

PARTING GLANCES

Flu Shot At 50 Ivy On 12/11/02
You: with woman; tall, dark, handsome; teach at CAPS. We: spent your name; talked about Venezuela. Me: vaccination nurse in black overalls. Interested in talking more, going out? ☎ 72324

Comma Bart Dec. 16 Wink Wave Wow
Bart 24th Mission, our eyes met, you were studying anatomy, I exited Glen Parks, winked and from departing train much to my delight, you turned, waved, smiled. Hope we connect. ☎ 72336

Christmas Eve Cutie*
We stood in line at Harvest and spoke all too briefly- you with your box of Madeleine's, and great smile as you walked away. Let's talk! ☎ 72341

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Black/White XXX Fun And Travel
Healthy active masculine GWM 49, 5'11", 175 tan shaved smooth and hung seeks Black buddies for hot long J/O, suck sessions and travel. I'm versatile and uninhibited. Palo Alto area. ☎ 72312

Poz Looking For Real Man
Looking for down to earth guy for dating and tr. I'm 43, 6'2", 205, like movies, walk on beach. Quiet times at home, N/S, not into gay scene. ☎ 72313

Artist Looking For Relationship
I'm an Artist living in San Francisco who is good looking and talented. If interested contact me. ☎ 72325

Where's My Daddy? VBL Latin Boy
In Arizona looking for hot dad type to spoil me. I am 31, 5'7", 140#, goatee, HIV+, fun and available for it. ☎ 72326

Man From Shanghai
Recently retired, smooth & trim, up to SF, seeks men over 35, for friendship, sensual massage and a good time. ☎ 72327

Safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE

Peninsula Or South Bay
Lean masculine WM 43 looking for another lean masculine guy 20's to 40's to start a friendship and share fun times and intimate moments. Like nature, travel, and movies. ☎ 72328

Closed
Closed GWM, 6', 250, chubby, affectionate, sensual, adventurous, seeks similar GM for discrete intimate encounters. N/S, N/D, your place? South Bay. ☎ 72329

Asian
Young looking GAM, 53y.o., 5'7", slim, caring, seeks older GWM for possible relationship. We enjoy quiet times, cooking, traveling. No smoking. ☎ 72330

Looking For Companion
GWM, 50yr lkg for GAM 40+ for companionship and possible tr. I'm serious and hope ur too. ☎ 72342

Romantic Guy Wanted Donde Estas
I am HM 45yrs 180 open to meet you, any age/race for long term relationship. Masculine or feminine. I am masculine. ☎ 72343

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Remember, safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE

Need Black Cock - East Bay

GWM, 160, 6', 55, wants to service your tool, balls and more. Thick and horny. ☎ 72338

Virgin Boy Ripe For Pickin's

Slim 5'2" 100lbs, wet sexy build, thick hair, "firm buttocks & cock." Wants- bld hair blue eyes & swinging his "big-n-beefy. Job a must. Plz be my burly top definitely your boyish bottom. Sonoma county only. Send photos. ☎ 72339

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Pull Your Pants Down
If you a masculine guy with a tight butt and a 29 to 32 inch waistline WM 43 wants to play with you. ☎ 72314

Suck My Dick!
Trim verbal dominant WM 43 seeks trim submissive, role play partner to be stripped naked, follow orders, and worship mushroom headed sausage. Preter 19-46. ☎ 72315

Stiff And Restless
Hot masculine big-dick Italian topman seeks in-shape Black, Asian, Latino + blue-collar White men. Top or bottom under 45. ☎ 72316

Goodlooking Black Bubble-Butt
GWM, 39, 5'11", 189, msec, bottom, 33 waist, bubble-butt w/tan lines. Seeking aggressive msec. top, any race, 30-45, who like to plow. Call me! ☎ 72317

• Santa Cruz/Monterey Countries*
Discreet, clean, GWM desires to beat off/ blow/ rim horny guys, gay or straight, ages 18-30. Available 24/7. No reciprocation expected. All races/no heavy. TJ ☎ 72318

Latex Love
Play safe! Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. ☎ SAFE

Asian Filipino 48 5'11 195
Here in Palo Alto, likes giving head to guys over 21yrs. Ub 7 1/2 inches with no recip., Have car will travel. ☎ 72319

Come Sail Away With Me To Mardi Gras
GWM seeks low maintenance, financially, nonsmoking, nondrugging travel companion with good sense of humor for RSVPS's Western Caribbean/ Mardi Gras Cruise aboard Holland America's New Zuiderdam, March 1-8, 2003. Asians +. ☎ 72320

Oral Master I'm Looking For
Guys who are very well hung: 8, 9, or 10 inches, to service, to party, and have a erotic fun time. ☎ 72331

Choke On This! I'm Looking
For guys to service me and "69", I'm hung "90" inches. I love to party, watch videos, and have a good time. ☎ 72332

Jack-Off Party I'm Looking
For guys who are well hung: 8, 9, or 10 inches, to kick back watch videos party, suck, etc. Call me. ☎ 72333

East Bay Kinky Bottom
WM, 33, 160, loves to party, bottom seeks friendly party friends video, toys, g/g, poz. No scat g/s would like to try f/f hot butt! ☎ 72334

Looking For Daddy/S.Bay/S.V. Area
Hot 40 y/o, WM, horse hung (9"), seeks hot hairy, hung daddy type. Prefer bald, beard & big. Serious replies only. HIV- & very clean. ☎ 72335

Seeking Hung Hairy Oral Bottom
Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worshipping, partying, drinking buddy desired. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. ☎ 72337

Need Black Cock - East Bay
GWM, 160, 6', 55, wants to service your tool, balls and more. Thick and horny. ☎ 72338

Seeking Hung Latin Oral Bottom
Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. ☎ 72349

Man W/Toe Ring Loves Barefeet
Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefeet. Gdkg East Bay GWM, 5'9", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet & sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 72322

FFT Wants FFB
GWM late 50's HIV- top 6'5" large hands seek GWM HIV- bottom for fun/pleasure aroma/herb+Call. ☎ 72323

I Love To Give Free Massages
For "hours at a time." To all men under 40. This Caucasian man loves to massage men's legs and calves. Men who wear sandals or leather footweare - a plus! ☎ 72340

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Bondage Buddy/Gentle Master
Teach novice chains of submission White, trim, smooth, 5'8" HIVneg, shaved balls, 59. Cannot hide from bondage. Denying does not work. Teach me to enjoy submission. White gentle & 40+. ☎ 72352

The Sexiest Guy In Town
Even the sexiest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. ☎ SAFE

"East Bay Gay Master"
Seeks straight slaves. I'll give you what your wife/girlfriend wont. Novices welcome. Your limits respected. Discreet, safe and versatile. ☎ 72344

Oral Expert
Black male, good looking, hung, masculine. Seeking to service hung males, 21-50. Bi, straight okay. Satisfaction guaranteed. ☎ 72345

Spank Your Butt!
Hot, masculine top, 5'11", 175#, 38, nice build, looking for in-shape bubble butt guy for over the knee bare-ass spanking, role-playing and plowing. ☎ 72346

Play safe. Wear a condom. ☎ SAFE

Sunnyvale Bear
GWM, 39, 5'11", 250, trimmed beard, hairy, seeks GWM 35-60 for long hot times, over and over again. Aroma/herb ok start the New Year off right. You will not be disappointed. ☎ 72347

New Years Massage
Start off 2003 with a sensual and refreshing full body experience. Free for lean tight-bodies guys from 20 to mid forties by friendly lean WM 44. ☎ 72348

Senior Suck
Oral service for men over 50s. by goodlooking, in-shape GWM 40+. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 72350

FETISHES

Christians Wish Cigar Drag Queens
Me- bi-HM, 54, be Christmas wish: young drag-queens (21-40), cigar-smoker, disease-free, no drugs, 69-69 suck/fuck, black nylon/ g-strings, very femme. ☎ 72321

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For "hours at a time." To all men under 40. This Caucasian man loves to massage men's legs and calves. Men who wear sandals or leather footweare - a plus! ☎ 72340

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You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____

Address _____ Evening Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum

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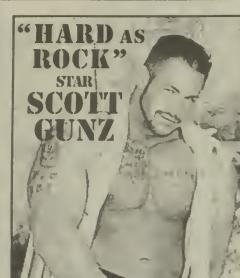
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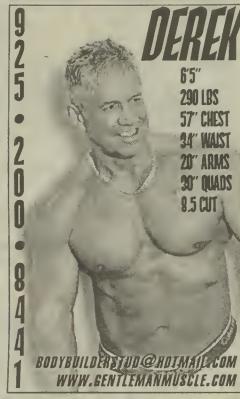
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